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Collect and r FOR SCHOOLS TOKEN AND DETAILS

No cash for those who refuse jobs

'Workfare' testing for state benefits

By JIEL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

cluding the disabled and lone parents, will be denied any State help unless they attend job interviews under radical reforms to be announced by the Government

All claimants of working age, except the disabled and lone parents, will then have to take up a job offer or face losing their entire benefit under. proposals that take Britain a tep closer to the American

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, and Alistair Darling the Social Security Secretary, will today an nounce an £80 million proramme to test the scheme in 12 pilot studies across the coun-try. Four of the trials will be un by private firms to assess: otential administrative say

covering about 450,000 people over three years, but the Welfare Reform Bill, announced in The Queen's Speech, will include measures to allow the Government to set up a nationwide compulsory scheme with-

A Section of the

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All potential claimants who attend interviews will have their own personal adviser under the "single gateway" scheme who will assess their entitlement to the whole range of henefits including housing enefit, income support and

Ministers, bracing them-selves for an internal party backlash, have until now been cautious about the extent of benefit penalties. But yesterday Whitehall sources disclosed that no payments would be made unless people

inroed up for a job interview. The twin aim is to reduce dependency on the State for all those capable of work and to cut down on benefit fraud:

Work for those who canand security for those who cannot, said one with a source last night. The interview will be a pre-condition for getting benefit.

The source denied that the Government was considering compelling the disabled and ione parents to take up jobs but suggested that the proposals could be extended to re-

backlash against Mr. Dar-ling's proposals to restrict disability benefits, including more rigorous medical tests for those claiming incapacity benefit, and curbs on widows benefits, which are also contained

In addition the Social Security Department angered the Royal British Legion-yester-day by announcing that it-would not repeal Conservative cutbacks to payments given to deaf servicemen, although Labour had attacked this in Op-

position. A spokeswoman said that the Government was following medical advice, after an 18 month review, that deterioration of hearing when people got older could not he attributed to injury suffered in

nounced by the Government for the single gateway scheme will be spent on recruiting and training personal advisers.

Four pilots will start in April in Essex, Warwickshire, Clyde Coast and Renfrew, and Lea Roding - covering East London. The remainder will be set up from next November. The privately managed pilots will cover Suffolk, Leeds, North Leeds and North Noting hamshire, and four other Goverranent trials will run in Somerset, Gwent Borders, Calderdale and Kirklees and Bucknighamshire.

Education officials stressed lieved to be anticipating a that there would be exemptions for the recently bereaved. and those who are severely disabled and cannot turn up for an interview. Whitehall sources said the

argument for compelling people to attend interviews followed evidence that voluntary pilots had failed to attract claimants. "Once people do turn up for an interview, however, many

of them go on to get a job." Leading article, page 19



Sarah Flannery, 16, who baffled the judges with her grasp of cryptography. They described her work as "brilliant"

Teenager cracks e-mail code

BY AUDREY MAGKE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN Irish schoolgirl was yesterday hailed as a mathematical genius after devising a code for sending secret messages by computer.

Sarah Flannery used the science of cryptography to design a code that is ten times faster than the one currently used to convert confidential information so that it can be sent via the Internet and e-mail. She has been inundated with offers of jobs and scholarships from international computer companies and universities. Miss Flannery, 16, from

Blarney, Co Cork, used matrices to formulate an alternative to RSA, the current data protection code, devised by three students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. The result is an algorithm, a mathematical blueprint, that is far faster than the RSA and equally secure.

Miss Flannery, whose father, David, lectures in mathematics at Cork Institute of Technology, devised her code to enter the Irish Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition. She won at the weekend

and left the judges unable fully to comprehend her project. They described her work as "brilliant" and one judge advised her to patent it.

Miss Flannery said she was thrilled. "I had to go through lots of stuff before I finalised the theory," she 'said. "I reached critical points where I would get stuck for three weeks or so. I just kept thinking about it and then the whole thing slipped into place." The oldest of five children, she earned eight As in her junior certificate, the Irish

equivalent of GCSEs, with extra tuition from her father.

Miss Flannery is now deciding what to do with her new code. the Cayley-Purser. named after Arthur Cayley, an eminent 19th-century Cambridge mathematician, and Michael Purser, a cryptographer who inspired her. She is considering publishing her findings rather than patenting as she does not want people to

pay for her discovery. She will represent Ireland at the EU Science Contest in Greece in September.

Freetown burns as rebels slaughter hundreds

FROM SAM KILEY IN FREETOWN

HUNDREDS of Ukrainian mercenaries are fighting alongside Sierra Leone's rebels who yesterday made good on their promise to burn Freetown, the capital, to the ground and torched the power station, post office, town hall and United Nations headquar-

West African peacekeepers continued to try to drive the rebels from the centre of the city, and claimed that they were conducting "mopping up operations". But yesterday afternoon, the city was in

Huge columns of smoke billowed as the last of the once elegant Creole architecture of the freed slave colony were set alight, along with colonial-era

government buildings. Hundreds of bodies, many of them victims of summary execution by the rebels led by Sam "Mosquito" Bockarie, lay rotting in the streets while the the Red Cross struggled to get medical supplies in.

The situation is extremely dangerous. It changes from moment to another, and the rebels have totally changed. This time around they are using clever infiltradent of Freetown desperately waiting for a helicopter to evac uate him from the western fringes which are under con-trol of Nigerian-led forces.

The Ukrainians have not yet been seen in Freetown. But sources independent of the Ecomog (West African) soldiersaid about 300 Ukrainians were spotted in Makeni, 100 miles from the capital which fell to the rebels two weeks ago, and they were camou-flaged with black cream.

'Scerct link', page 14

New sentences for burglars

Jack Straw brought in the Tories' plans for automatic minimum sentences for three-time burgiars. They mean a bur-giar could be in jail for just 16 nonths with automatic remission and early release on cur-

Trade war threat A global trade war came clos-when America failed to re-solve a dispute with Europe over banana imports and threatened sanctions on Ja-pan over steel Page 23 100 = 100 d

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TV & RADIO 42. 43
WEATHER22
CROSSWORDS 22, 44
LETTERS19
OBITUARIES21
SIMON JENKINS 18
ARTS 34-36 CHESS & BRIDGE 38
COURT & SOCIAL
LAW REPORT32
HOMES 30

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BUSINESS 23-27



Yemeni kidnap leader 'faces death penalty'

By DANIEL McGrory in Aden and Stephen Farrell

THE leader of the Islamic kidnap gang which abducted 16 tern tourists in a desert ambush is to go on trial for his life today in a high-security Yemeni court The bereaved families of

three Britons killed during a shootout with security forces are likely to be asked if they wish to spare Abu Hassan's As the surviving hostages rather for the cremation of one of the victims, Margaret Whitehouse, 52, Mr Hassan is also

being accused of training and

arming five Britons being held for allegedly plotting to bomb an international hotel and the British Consulate. The Yemenis claim that four pire Games marathon in Var-couver, has died aged 80. As he started the final lap he led days after the Britons were arrested in police raids, Mr Hassan, 28, ambushed the tour party to barter for the release of those juiled in Aden.

despite a valiant struggle, he of those jailed in Aden.

The lawyer for the five Britons, Salim Basunaid, said last

night: "My fear is that Abu Hassan's trial will incriminate my clients and yet they still have not been charged let alone had a chance to explain why they were in Aden."

Mr Basunaid has still not been allowed to see the five but has been handed police files which claim the men confessed to meeting Mr Hassan at his terrorist camp where they were given TNT explo-sives and weapons. The law-yer insists these confessions

were made under torture. Scotland Yard is still investigating claims the five were sent on their bombing mission by the London-based Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza, whose extremist Supporters of Shariah group runs a website depicting a hand grenade and advertising military training cours-

The Yard has joined forces with the FBI to explore suggest ed links between SOS and the wanted terrorist billionaire. Osama bin Laden. Security sources claim that Bin Laden, who is hiding in Afghanistan, has helped fund the Londonbased SOS. They also believe four of those being held in the Central Security Headquarters in Aden are personally linked to the cleric, including Mohsen Ghailan, who alleged ly confessed to receiving \$2,000 (£1,200) from SOS to

take part in this operation. Legal sources in Yemen said Mr Hassan and two others captured in the bungled rescue are certain to face the death renalty if found guilty which, under a new law, is mandatory for kidnapping. Last night Mr Whitehouse

54, from Hook, Hampshire, was unable to discuss whether he would call for the death penalty or "blood money" to pardon Mr Hassan

Mosque inquiry, page 5



ended up in Ashworth"

Reprieve for Ashworth

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, decided to keep Ashworth Special Hospital in Merseyside open despite a damning public inquiry re-port on the hospital at the centre of a pacdophilia and pornography scandal.

Inquiry members and mental health groups immediately criticised the move. The charity Mind felt he had ducked a "brave challenge" Page 2

The state of the s

Software stops pupils seeing Net porn

EDUCATION EDITOR

Marathon hero

Jim Peters dies

Jim Peters, the British runner

who collapsed in the 1954 Em-

by more than three miles, but

SCHOOLS are to be offered a powerful screening system developed by Ameri-can space scientists which blocks pupils access to internet pornography even in otherwise innocent documents

and e-mail messages.

The software, being launched today at an educational technology exhibition, is used widely in the United States, where it spared teachers the embarrassment of answering ques-tions on the more salacious sections of the Starr Report on President Clinton. Wide Web by 2002, and the Govern-powerful because it looks at the context

While most school filtering devices allowed pupils access to the full report, published on recognised sites such as that of the White House, those using URLabs' I-Gear package found descriptions of his sexual encounters censored.

ICL, the British computer company, will launch a new version of the package, which includes e-mail screening. at Olympia in London this morning. It is already in use in some Scottish schools and will be installed in all Hertfordshire state schools this spring. - Tony Blair wants all 32,000 British

schools to be connected to the World

development of a National Grid for Learning. But concerns about Internet pornography and undesirable e-mail traffic have dissuaded many schools from making use of the technology.

Most British schools use filters to . block access to sites known to contain unsuitable material. The software will enable them to set their own censor-

Dan Sydow, who developed the software after more than ten years' working for the Nasa space agency, said: "The programme is particularly

ment is pouring millions into the as well as the words used. The inclusion of e-mail is important because schools have intercepted everything from bomb-making instructions to messages from stalkers."

Mr Sydow added: "Sexually explicit or violent material is what most schools are concerned about, but some users might want to block access to Internet shopping."

Internet filtering has become big business in America; it was worth more than \$14 million (£8.5 million) in 1997. In Britain the new package will cost about £1,000 a school, but it is being bought mainly by local authorities.



COMPARISONS GETWEEN PRIST TELECOM EASY PHONE AND BY STANDARD RATES FIRST TELECOM EASY PHONE RATES TO MOBILE PHONES ARE APPLICABLE

TODAY ON PAGE 18

Alan

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'He's a strange cove.

your Johnny Sun'

Simon

Tenkins

The key to this week's Blair relaunch is the lack of anything to say'

Nuddox

Like him or not.

the tangoing President

TOMORROW

sceptical eye to recieved wisdom

ी Lignus

Linklater

Britain's leading economic visionary turns his gaze

Anatole

Kaletsky

Morose visage lets old Labour flavour flood out

The opinion formers... Challenging minds in the changing Times his week John Prescott has the air of a cat who has swallowed a canary. To call him cheerful would overstate. Joy is not in the Deputy Prime Minister's repertoire: the facial muscles just aren't there. But his is the merriest scowl in Westmin-

> When he's at the dispatch box the Government's whole nature seems to change. New Labour terminology vanishes like a morning mist. Nobody speaks of "the Project". Nobody's nice about Liberal Democrats. The world of old Labour comes flooding back like daylight after the strobes and fluorescence of a 1990s

purple dream. Mr Prescott was flanked by his favourite ministers. Michael Meacher: an earnest, intense, kindly leftwinger; Glenda Jackson, an austere socialist, straight and harsh; and Alan Meale, real-ale old Labour from the Nottinghamshire coalfields. Between them these three have carried Labour's Commons banner for some 40 years. Their constituencies -Oldham, Hampstead & Highgate, and Mansfield - could form the cultural tripod oo which old Labour once stood. When Prescott's taking

Questions even the faces be-

hind seem to change. So few

seem to be on-message for the

Project. Does Prescott draw a different audience - or is our eye drawn to a usually camouflaged gang? Surprising how many of them there are. I looked along the Government backbenches yesterday during Questions on Environment. Transport and the Regions (Prescott's domain). Where were these new Labour groupies about whom we all write?

Beast of Bolsover - flanked

entertainingly off-message. There was Dennis Skinner (66) in his usual place - the

MATTHEW PAREIS

by Terry Lewis (63) .- the Beast of Worsley, and Ronnie Campbell (55), the rowdy Geordie former Scargillite. No thirtysomething modernisers these. Beside them, John Cryer is thirtysomething — and as fiery and hard-edged a Leftie as his late father. Another thirtysomething, leftwinger Maria Eagle, a few yards away, is

There was Gordon Prentice (Pendle, 47) for the hardish Left, Peter Pike (Burnley, 61).

Clwyd (Cynon Valley), a 61-year old campaigner and rebel in the radical cause, and David Winnick (Walsall N. 65), a long-time leftish libertarian. Bearded like an Old Testament prophet, Andrew Bennett (Denton & Reddish, 59) has led many a ramblers' protest. Another beard was Bill Michie's (Sheffield Heeley, 63), a veteran leftwinger who

Elections Bill. Was Gwynneth Dunwoody (Crewe & Nantwich, 69), re-uptered in orange and brown for 1999, new Labour? Mrs. Dunwoody is of the brave, overlooked, old Labour Right.

voted against the European

ideology-free old Labour, Ann Is Robert Sheldon (Ashton-under-Lyne, 75), former minister and planner, new Labour? All. were there.

And alongside, the dispossessed. Some quite young, like Nigel Griffiths (Edinburgh S). whose Brownite allegiance when a minister was not enough to save him from Blair's axe: some surely bittet. like former Public Service Minister David Clarke (S Shields, 59), whose Freedom of Information Bill has just suffered another amputation. With every reshuffle the numbers who have lost hope, or

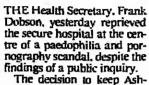
gained a grievance, grow. Labour has a huge majori-. ty. Within Labour, however,

new Labour does not, and old Labour is bigger than Mr Blair's majority. Those from whom these examples are taken do not hang together 25 a gaing they are unrelated does they do not comprise a picture. But they could. With John Prescott setting the tone yesterday — Gestalt It was momentarily possible to jour up the dots. There are hundreds of them.

Junior minister Hilary Armstrong muddled her words yesherday, turning capping crite-ria into crapping criteria and narrowly avoiding disaster with crude and universal capping'. Prescott almost grinned Something's cheered him up.

Dobson rejects call to close Ashworth

BY MARK HENDERSON AND RUSSELL JENKINS



The decision to keep Ashworth Special Hospital in Merseyside open despite strong recommendations to close it brought immediate criocism from inquiry mem-bers and mental health

groups.

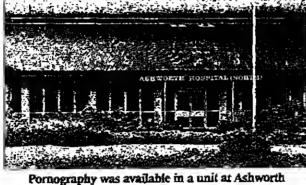
Professor Brian Edwards, a panellist, said: "The panel quite frankly disapprove of Michael the decision." Michael Howlett of the Zito Trust said it was "deeply disappointing".

Peter Fallon QC, the inquiry chair, sald Mr Dobson would have only himself to

blame if there were further scandals at the hospital. "If they don't do something about the shape and nature of Ashworth they will certainly in our judgment have missed the boat," he said.

If they keep to the structure as it is currently the problems will return."

The inquiry's 473-page report, published yesterday, found evidence that pornography was freely available in Ashworth's Personality Disorder Unit. and that convicted sex offenders were allowed to play unsupervised with a girl aged eight who was being "groomed for paedophile pur-



poses". It advised Mr Dobson to shut down the "dy functional" hospital "at the earliest opportunity" as it could not "flourish under any manage-ment", and called for a network of small regional secure units to replace Ashworth and the other special hospitals at Rampton in Nottinghamshire and Broadmoor in Berkshire.

Mr Dobson accepted that there had been a "catalogue of disasters" at Ashworth but insisted it must remain open.

The three special hospitals must continue to be the main providers of high security services," he said. "I do not believe the problem at Ashworth Is in the bricks and mortar. The problem is management and that is what we are determined-to tackle. Ashworth would make a

"fresh start" with improved security costing £1.5 million and fewer perks for patients, he said. Visits by children will be banned in all but special cas-

Peter Clarke, Ashworth's acting chief executive, said the hospital had already confiscated computers, banned cash and stopped child visits.

The inquiry was set up in 1997 after serious allegations were made by Stephen Daggett, a convicted sex offender who absconded to blow the whistle on failings at Ash-worth. His claims that pornog-raphy, alcohol and drugs were freely available and that patients might be abusing visiting children were found to be "largely accurate".

Attitudes to security was "farcical", and managers at Ashworth and the Special Hospital Service Adminstration repeatedly ignored, cov-ered up or failed to prevent in-

competence and failings. Paul Lever, chairman of Ashworth Hospital Authority, and Anne-Marie Nelson, chairman of the SHSA, were urged to resign and both stepped down yesterday. A further four unnamed members of staff may be sacked in light of the report, Mr Clarke

Eight other managers and staff who had already re-signed, retired or been sacked were criticised in similar terms, including the former chief executive of Ashworth, Janice Miles.

Charles Kaye, former chief executive of the SHSA, Pameia Taylor, former head of medical services at the SHSA, Colin Dale, former Executive Nurse Director, and Mark Stowell-Smith, a senior social worker blamed for the child's unsupervised visits, were also held accountable. Virginia Bottomley, the

Health Secretary over the peri-od considered, is also reproached for introducing liberal reforms in special hospitals too hastily in response to the 1993 Blom-Cooper report. The inquiry's 58 recommendations also included a proposal to treat offenders with untrestable personality disor-



Peter Fallon, QC, who said action must be taken

pomography.

ders as common criminals held in special units. and imprisoned rather than held with the mentally ill. It called for "reviewable sentences" for such criminals, undef which prisoners due for release would have to prove they no longer posed a danger to

the public. They should be

The Fallon report revealed a security regime in Ashworth's Personality Disorder Unit so lax that it became "a place where normal rules did not apply". Convicted sex offenders were allowed easy access to

Whistle blower now feels vindicated

THE Ashworth patient who revealed the astonishing events at its Personality Disorder Unit, yesterday spoke of his "vindication" by the Fallon report (Mark Henderson

Stephen Daggett, 38, has been held at Rampton since he absconded from Ashworth on a supervised shopping trip in 1996. He eventually gave himself up to police after travelling to Belgium, and told them he had run away to draw attention to appalling lapses at the hospital.

He wrote a document entitied "My Concerns", spelling out allegations of paedo philia, pornography, security failures and drug abuse that has been accepted almost in its entirety by the Fallon in-quiry. His claims were passed to ministers by his parents' MP Alice Mahon, leading Stephen Dorrell, the then Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell to set up the inquiry,

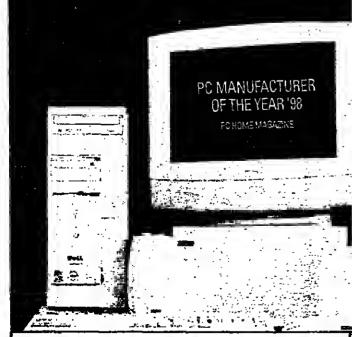
He said: "Today does not make me happy but certainly.
I feel vindicated for doing what I did. I do not expect to be thanked for what I did. "At first I was ridicated because people simply could not get their head around what I

was telling them. I only hope the authorities can now allow me to get on with my clinical

Daggett was convicted in 1986 of three indecent assaults against young girls.

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Three years for repeat burglars

BY RICHARD FORD

matic three-year jail term under sentencing proposals announced yesterday will serve just six months longer than the current average sentence

for burglary.
With automatic remission and early release on curfew, a burglar given the three-year minimum could be in jail for just 16 months when the proposal becomes effective in 2001. The new sentence was announced in spite of opposition from the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill. and other senior judges who argue that automatic sentenc-

es fetter judicial discretion. Jack Straw's decision to bring in the Conservative Government's plan for automatic minimum sentences for threetime domestic burglars was so sudden that the Prison Service only knew about it last week. Officials from the Home Office contacted the service towards the end of the week asking what the implications

BURGLARS given an auto- would be for the prison popula-The Home Secretary's adop-

tion of his predecessor's proposal was seen by penal reform groups as a panic meas-ure and part of the Govern-ment's attempted relaunch after the disarray over Christmas. Lord Hurd of Westwell the chairman of the Prison Reform Trust and former Home Secretary, said he did not support the change: "I think this is strength through unity week. He has been told to find something tough."

But last night Mr Straw said that after figures in October showed a change in the projected prison population he had asked for work to be put in hand for implementing the sentences. He said: "The decision had been taken in my

head well before Christmas." At present the average sentence for a third-time burglar is approximately two years, meaning they are out after 12

Blair denies editor worked for MI6

DOMINIC LAWSON, the editor of The Sunday Telegraph who has rejected claims that he might be an M16 agent, has never been employed by the Government, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Mr Blair also dismissed suggestions that Mr Lawson had been paid by the Government or "anyone acting on its behalf into a bank or banks.

The denials follow Labour MP Brian Sedgemore's use of parliamentary privilege in the Commons last month to name Mr Lawson as the subject of allegations by former spy Richard Tomlinson. Mr Tomlinson had claimed in earlier newspaper reports that Mi6had recruited a senior Fleet Street figure.

Mr Lawson issued a brief statement at the time stressing: "I am not and never have been an agent, either paid or unpaid, of Mi6 or any other Government agency."
But in parliamentary ques-

tions tabled today, Labour backbencher George Gallo-way asked Mr Blair: "If you will list the capacities in which Mr Lawson has been employed by the Government or any agency acting on its be-

He also asked: "What public funds have been paid by the Government or anyone acting on its behalf into a bank or. banks to Mr Lawson." Mr Blair's tabled reply was

simple. "None." he said. During pre-Christmas debates in the Commons last month, Mr Sedgemore named Mr Lawson. "I would hope we would have some time between now and Christmas to look at the claim that Dominic Lawson has been recruited as a paid MI6 agent," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawrence charges

A police officer in the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is to face seven charges of neglect of duty after the bungled hunt for ... the killers of the black student, but four other senior officers have escaped similar serious charges because they have .retired from the Metropolitan Police. The Police Complaints Authority recommended bringing the charges against Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, second in command of the investigation, after an inquiry into how the Memopolitan Police dealt with the case. The authority also criticised the lack of first aid treatment offered to Stephen. aged 18, as he lay dying after being stabbed in Eltham, southeast London. Mr Bullock will deny the charges.

Air crash inquiry

The British and Irish Governments are to re-open the case of the Aer Lingus aircraft that crashed off the Irish coast in 1968 with the loss of 61 lives. Relatives claim that the Viscount aircraft was shot down by a missile or a pilotless aircraft, and are campaigning for a full explanation. The British Government has repeatedly denied any involvement. However, experts from the Ministry of Defence and the Irish Department of Transport are to re-examine the files.

Viagra on NHS threat

Doctors have warned the Government they will start prescribing Viagra on the NHS within the next ten days unless they get clear advice about when it can be used. The British Medical Association's GPs committee meets on January 21 and John Chisholm, the chairman, said yesterday that members would then advise doctors to defy the current han an prescribing the days if they had not been given. rent ban on prescribing the drug if they had not been given guidelines on its use by that time.

TV licence review

The future of the television licence fee is to be reviewed by a task force chaired by Gavyn Davies, the chief international economist for Goldman Sachs. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said the panel would look into proposals to offer concessionary licence fees and to allow the BBC to raise more revenue from commercial activity. His department denied reports that old age pensioners would be given free television beences financed by a 10p levy on video rentals.

Police suspend worker

A civilian police worker has been suspended after giving a handgun, 150 live bullets and a bag of drugs to a member of the public. The items had been seized during a raid in Tyneside last week in which one man was arrested. They were being held as potential evidence but when a man walked into South Shields police station and said that he had come to collect them, the worker handed them over.

Advert criticised

The Times has been criticised by the Advertising Standards Authority for using an advertisement which featured a picture of a woman in a bikim fied to a wooden cross. The advertisement, for a six part photographic series in The Sunday Times Magazine on the work of photographer Terry O. Neill, was the subject of 140 complaints from readers who protested that it was "tasteless, provocative and blasphemous to Christians."

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WI T

An internal investigation has been launched.

Emotional plea by foster girls couple

Runaways send letter pleading 'Let us be a family,' reports Alex O'Connell

their foster daughters have written an emotional letter from an unknown address pleading to be allowed to

In a letter sent to Anglia Tele-vision, Jeff and Jennifer Bramley urged police and social services to let them live as a

family with the two girls. The letter was handwritten in blue ink on lined paper and sted first class on Monday

The couple left their home at Cambridgeshire. with Jade Bennett, 5, and her sister Hannah, 3, in September. The Bramleys, who have looked after the girls since March, fied in the belief that the children would be taken vay from them by Cam-

Mr Bramley, a Royal Mail worker in Peterborough, told his office he was not coming to work because he was ill.

The couple wrote: "We Jeff, nny. Jade and Hannah write this letter to tell the plight of a family that love each other and wishes to stay together.

Jade and Hannah were told about us and told we would be their forever Mummy and Daddy, after we had met the girls several times in their foster home, they came to

them as our daughters. Jade and Hannah were looking forward to their new lives with

The couple, who plead for understanding, write: "We are two good, honest, caring people who are willing to give up our home, our family and friends and jobs to maintain Jade and Hannah's happiness in keeping them with the par-ents they love and desperately

want to share their lives with. We want the voices of our children to be heard. We were approved to be Jade and Hannah's new Mummy and Daddy, they were placed with us for us to adopt. It is mislead-

rything was fine until one day they said we were too safety ious by saying 'no' and don't too often. The children have been

told by Social Services that they are to move on to another forever Mummy and Daddy." In the letter the Bramleys say how Jade, who liked dancng, was very much looking forward to going to school. Hannah, the couple write, has

enjoyed sessions at playgroup and was looking forward to go ing regularly.

Jade and Hannah have cried, saying they love us and don't want to live with anyone else and that if anyone comes to take them away they will

hold on to us, not letting go." The letter concludes: "Jade

and Hannah are two bright, intelligent, articulate children who love us with all their hearts. We ask therefore, will someone help us to be legally their Murmmy and Daddy for ever, making the hopes and dreams of these two wonderful girls come true?"

ه کوزامن المومل

The letter is unsigned. Police, who held back five paragraphs of the full letter for their investigations, are taking the communication seriously because it contains information only the Bramleys would know. Copies of the letter were also sent to The Express newspaper and a local paper.

Although Cambridgeshire social services said that they did not think that the couple would harm the children, they were concerned because they lieved the Bramleys were The letter was sent as the

hunt for the Bramleys intensified after a potential sighting of the couple on the North Yorkshire Railway between Pickering and Grosmont. A vicar told police of how he spotted a girl he thought was Jade

The Rev Jack Cooper said at the time: "The children were a nuisance and disturbing passengers. The parents made no The couple's car was foun



Imran says wife will fight 'fake' charge

JEMIMA KHAN has been charged in Pakistan with illegally exporting hundreds of antique tiles after the confiscation of a Christmas gift to her mother by customs officers.

Mrs Khan, who has not been arrested and is currently in Britain, faces a six-mont prison sentence and £60 fine is

Yesterday her husband, Imran Khan, the former cricketer, who formed Pakistan's Movement for Justice party, accused the Government of po-litical victimisation. The case

is fake," said Mr Khan. 46. "I will file a defamation case against the customs de-partment, which has become a tool in the hands of the Government in victimising politi-

Mrs Khan, 24, daughter of the late Sir James Goldsmith, had sent the 397 tiles to her toms officials. She said that the shipment, which she had bought in a market in Islamabad, was lawful because she had a receipt stating that the tiles were less than 50 years old.

Customs officials said that they had referred the tiles to the local archaeological de-partment which had declared that they were "of paramount archaeological interest and belonged to the Islamic era". They claim the tiles were originally stolen from an archaeo-

Blackmailer 'bled banker of £500,000°

A BLACKMAILER bled a shy. respected country bank man-ager of almost £500,000 over nearly 20 years through threats to tell his wife about the time he bought a set of pow nographic videos, a court was told yesterday.

By the time Brian Crossling was arrested in July 1997, he had allegedly taken £449,500 from his victim. Over the years the manager, now agednearly 70 and retired, had sold his luxury house for a smaller one, remortgaged that, cashed in his wife's investments and lied to friends to get money for Crossling, the court was told. The manager, identified to

Newcastle Crown Court yesterday only as Mr X, also handed over a £92,000 lump sum that the received when he took early retirement in the mid 1980s, and ran up a £42,000 overdraft. He even contemplated suicide to escape Crossling's in-

cessant demands.
His secret eventually came out in June 1997, when he was. arrested by detectives investi-gating claims that he was try-ing to defraud his friends. Under questioning, Mr X claimed that Crossling had goaded him by saying the money had been used to set up a company dealing in pornographic videos and to buy drugs. Robert Woodcock, prosecut-

ng said that Crossling owned himself. He had no other means of support. When police searched his house they found £73,000 in cash under the kitchen sink and he had also salted away in building so-ciety accounts £250,000. We say none of this was lawfully his." Crossling, 40, from Rod-

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

than 20 stitches after a patient dymoor, near Crook, Co Durham, denies blackmail Mr Woodcock, who de scribed Mr X as a man thoroughly respected in his com-munity said. It started in 1978 when Mr X answered an advert in a newspaper for porno-graphic videos. Mr X bought a within a few days."

couple of them but nothing happened until he decided to buy some more from the same - "He then met Mr Crossling." Crossling asked him for a loan of money, saying he was going to start a company selling porn videos to coach compa-nies. Mr X was content to lend hamshire.
"The attack has not changed

my view of nursing. He was ill and I could have come across him at any time. I am a lot better now, but it was very frightening at the time.

Mr Woodcock said that Mr X eventually turned to friends for help. One gave him £40,000 in 1994, £21,000 in 1995 and £10,000 in 1997. An elderly lady gave him four sums totalling £63,000 in 1997 after Mr X claimed he needed urgent medical treatment. the patients we look after. It is difficult to predict situations." The patient broke furniture

In court Mr X said: The pressure began at the start when I bought the videos as I did not want him to tell my wife. I also didn't want him to tell my wife he was a big-time drug dealer and police informant in Blackpool. He would say Would you like me to tell

term of blackmail."

Mr X said that he had borrowed more than £220,000 from friend and relatives. "Most of it was because of pressure from Mr Crossing, I would not have loaned him

your wife about this? It was a

the money, but Crossling, de-

tecting the case which a virtu-

al stranger had handed over

cash, realised what an easy

touch he was."

20 stitches for nurse attacked with glass

A NURSE who needed more

attacked her with a broken mirror in a hospital ward has vowed to return to work. Roz Hanson, 30 and a nurse for seven years, said yesterday; Things like this come with the job. I'll be back at work

The mother of one was close to tears as she described how she thought she would die as the patient turned violent as she treated him for a minor cut to his arm on the casualty ward at Kings Mill Hospital, Sutton in Ashfield, Notting-

"Occasionally we have epi-sodes that occur, spontaneous outbursts that might cause con-cern, but generally I feel safe to come to work. It occurs with the job because of the nature of

and smashed a mirror before attacking Mrs Hanson with pieces of broken glass. He plunged a shard into her arm before stabbing her in the back as she tried to fice.

He was overpowered by a male nurse and a female colleague who held him until police arrived. Mrs Hanson was taken to the hospital's accident and emergency department where she needed 18 striches to her back and five to her arm. □A 29-year-old man was yesterday remanded in custody by Mansfield magistrates accused of causing Mrs Hanson grievous bodily harm.

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Port admits liability for Milford Haven oil spill

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A PORT authority yesterday admitted liability an oil spill that contaminated 120 miles of

The oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground at the entrance to the Milford Haven estuary in west Wales while under the control of an inexperienced pi-

lot three years ago. More than 72,000 toones of crude oil leaked from the vessels tanks, killing thousands of sea birds, seals and other

of sea birds, seals and other marine creatures. Fishing and tourism in the region were also badly affected.

Milford Haven Put Antionity, which employed the plot, westerday pleaded guilty to causing polluting matter to enter controlled waters of Milford Haven and the saids used. ford Haven and the south west Wales coast" at a hearing at Cardiff Crown Court. The pen- sidered John-Pearn, a class-

alty under the Water Resourc-

es Act is an unlimited fine. The court was told that the clean-up operation cost including compensation for losses sustained by the fishing and tourism industries, is likely to exceed £100 million.

Michael Hill, QC, prosecut-ing, said that the Sea Empress, carrying 130,000 tonnes of North Sea crude to a refinery, was significantly bigger phys-ically fourther deadweight ton-nage would have indicated."

In March 1991 the port authorsty had dropped a require-ment for two pilots to be on vessels below 150,000 tonnes. At 147,000 tonnes, the Sea Empress just escaped classificanon as a "Very Large Crude Carrier" and the authority contwo pilot, to be qualified to guide the Sea Empress into port on his own. Cardiff Crown Court heard

that entering Milford Haven is potentally dangerous due to its narrow entrance, strong tides and weather patterns. Mr Hill said: The entrance requires careful navigation by a sufficiently trained and expe-

rienced pilot. Mr Pearn had

never before attempted to

bring in alone a vessel comparable in size to the Sea Em press so close to low water." The court was told that the port authority had agreed to pay the legal costs of the Environment Agency, which brought the prosecution, of E825,000. Mr Hill called for maximum financial penali-

ties' because of the scale of the

poilution. The case continues.

1. More reliable...

Reliable easylet beats big carries

easylet is regarded a more reliable service by business travellers than major carriers such as ... British Airways, British Midland and KLM according to a new survey by-Company Barclaycard, Stanley Slanghter writes.

Although these three leading airlines were the most used by U.K. business travellers, their regular fliers gave them the lowest mark for reliability.

While a third of easyJet regulars said its reliability was excellent, the corresponding figures for British Midland, KLM and BA from their regulars were

its customers rating it excellent for inflight service (59 per cent) and for. quality of food (59 per cent). The respective figures for BA in these cate gones were 17 per cent, live and five. Heavy bitters such as BA and KLM were also given further cause to worry. with a majority of business travellers. saying smaller airlines give better serv

ice and quality. In last year's survey, 53 per cent se big arrives gave better service, with only 40 per cent plumping for the small players. But this year the figures a exactly reversed.

The Daily Telegraph 18/11/98 Pg 35.

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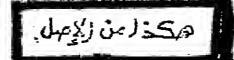


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Second radical group is linked to mosque

THE London mosque at the centre of international police investigations into a plot to bomb British targets in Yemen has become a magnet for radical groups.

It emerged yesterday that a second Muslim organisation that endorses violence has strong links with the Finsbury

Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, whose group, Al Muhajiroun, believes in resistance by Muslims against the United States and Britain, is a former leader of the mosque. Its current leader, Abu Hamza, a close friend of Sheikh Bakri. runs his own extreme organisa-tion. Supporters of Shariah. from the building. Abu Hamza is being monitored by several intelligence agencies.

Sheikh Bakri said yesterday that he had taught four of the young British Muslims arrested in Yemen for allegedly plot-ting to bomb British targets. He also said money raised at the mosque was used to fund "legal resistance" by Muslim groups in Kashmir, Palestine, Kosovo and Bosnia.

According to Sheikh Bakri, Mr Harnza, who lost his hands and the sight in one eye while fighting in Afghanistan, receives a disability allowance

from the British Government. Up to 1,000 people are said to attend weekly prayers led by Mr Hamza, after which donations are made. It is not uncommon for Muslim businessmen to make single donations" of £5.000 to their local mosques. More money is raised during Ramadan. when worshippers pay an additional £3 per family memberto the mosque. Those with savings of more than £750 must pay 25 per cent of their total wealth each year to the to charity. Asked if any money went to fund opposition to the

Leader advocates resistance against Britain, report Adrian Lee, Stephen Farrell and Dominic Kennedy

and the activities of Mr Ham-

za, who has organised camps there at which military skills

were taught to young men, is

causing alarm among many

One serior Muslim academic said that he was offended

that camps, involving military training, were taking place at the mosque. He said he had never heard of such activities

at other mosques in Britain.

It is understood that police

depicts a hand grenade. Yester-

day the website provider, Islamic Gateway, which offers

moderate Muslims.

United States. Sheikh Bakri Muhajiroun and he had not adsaid: "It is up to Abu Hamza the Pinsbury Park mosque

Sheikh Bakri, 40, visited the Finsbury mosque last week to attend a prayer night. His group, Al Muhaproun, which campaigns for a single Muslim state, lists one of its aims as demonstrating "against the British authority" and the policies of the British Government." It states on its website: "British man-made law is waragainst God ... Islam will dominate the whole world."

In the past Sheikh Bakri has made outspoken attacks on homosexuals, claimed that the Holocaust was a fabrication and justified the bombings of American targets in Africa, but regretting the deaths of people. He was interviewed by Special Branch in the early 1990s for allegedly calling for the assassination of John Major, He denied the allegation and was never charged.

Although he opposed the kidnapping and killing of Britons, Sheikh Bakri, who holds a British passport, said yesterday that he supported action against British and American targets in the Middle East. He said: "We have the right to retaliate. I don't call it violence, it. is the divine right to fight back. Muslims must resist.

Sheikh Bakri said that he had met several of the British Muslims who are under arrest in Yemen while he was teach-

Yes, I know them personally. I taught them Islam, jurisprudence and foreign policy. mosque. Some of the cash goes. They are intellectual people. peaceful young men." He said they were not members of Al

move the grenade graphic and reference to military training. Abdul-Rahman al-Adhami, Islamic Gateway's co-ordina-tor, said: "We think this is beyoud the limits that we have agreed with the Supporters Of Shariah. We do not support. vised them to travel to Yemen. or have any contact with that Sheikh Bakri's links with organisation other than pro-

ويحذر من رائيمل

viding web space."
Another Muslim, aged 24, who asked not to be named. said he had visited the Finsbury Park mosque and found the atmosphere intimidating. "Abu Hamza is a difficult man. He thinks the way of islam is to fight. They teach people to hate people. I think 70 per cent of Muslims would

like to see this man removed."

Mr Hamza said yesterday that he expected to be questioned by police over his links with the five Britons arrested in have recently investigated the camps and decided that they were not illegal. They are ad-vertised on a website, which Yemen. He refused to comment further, saying he would add nothing more until Ramadan ended. His stepson is one of those under arrest, and his natural son is on the run and wantfree Internet space to a wide range of Muslim organisa-tions, said that it would reed by the authorities in Yemen.

Leading article, page 19.



Sheikh Bakri is a former leader of Finsbury Park mosque, which has been used to give young Muslims military training

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difficulties of definition and Nevertheless, the Govern-

Monica Davis, wife of Ghulam Hussein, one of the Law provides a

haven for radicals

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

haven for Islamic extremists. has been given embarrassing reinforcement by the allegations against the British Musthe calls for the overthrow of e Yemeni Government from North London mosque.

Britain has come under

owing pressure in the past five years to clamp down on the Islamic groups that have proliferated in this country, some of which are accused of tions in the Middle East. Algeria, Egypt, Turkey, Tu-nisia, Saudi Arabia and sever-

al Gulf states have accused: Britain of turning a blind eye to extremists who have fled activities while seeking asylum. Their governments have demanded a sharp crackdown on dissident exiles and have accused Britain of hypocrisy in tolerating the plotting friendly governments and even against Western interests.

in response, the Government rushed through a new law on the back of last year's emergency terrorist legisla-tion after the Omagh bomb-ing. For the first time this made it an offence to plot terrorist activity abroad or to collect money to support foreign prohibit the promotion or ineitement to terrorism, unlike previous proposed Consciva-

LONDON'S reputation as a the bombings of the Paris Metminded by London-based supporters of the Algerian extremist Islands (GIA). Arab governments claimed that a network of extremist groups in Britain was supporting each other, and that one group, "al-Ansa" (The Helpers), was circulating pamphlets in North London

mosques calling for the kill-ing of foreigners in Algeria. Cairo said were inspired by Egyptian extremist exiles in London. In reply Britain information with Cairo and to keep a close watch on known

extremist groups.

John Major told Arab am-bassadors in London three and he also reassured Presiwould be stepped up.

The issue came to a head with the proposal for a "Rally for Revival" of radical Islamic groups at the London Arena in September 1996. This fol-lowed two earlier rallies at Wembley which led to demonstrations by Jewish and homosexual groups that accused the radicals of inciting harred.

viting well-known radicals, including Osama bin Laden. Several Arab governments threatened retaliatory action tracts with Britain if the rally went shead. It was eventually

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Coastline is on edge of collapse

Experts fear that the Beachy Head collapse will be followed by others, reports **Nick Nuttall**

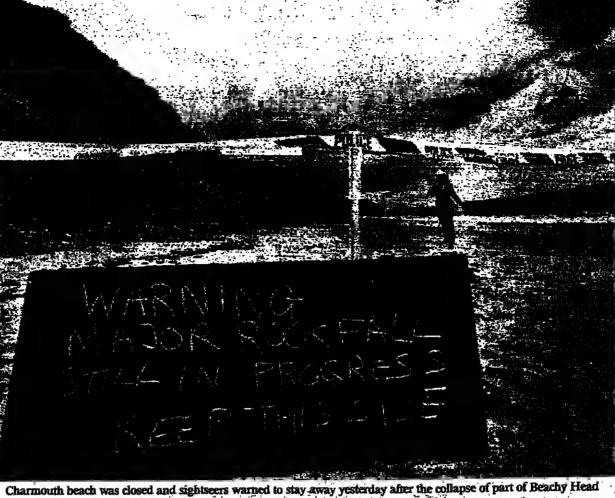
THE Government was yester-day told to act urgently to counter the danger of further coast-al erosion in the wake of the landslide at Beachy Head.

Stretches of the east and south coasts could be the next to collapse as torrential rains and high waves continue to pound Britain. Part of the Holderness Coast in Yorkshire, a strip east of Lyme Regis in Dorset, and a 200 metre stretch of cliffs on the Isle of Wight have been identified as

most immediately vulnerable. John Gummer, the Conserv-arive MP for Suffolk Coastal and former Environment Secretary, has tabled a series of Commons questions to John Prescott, the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, and Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr Gummer is to ask Mr Brown if he will now reconsider the "savage" cut in the rate of financial support from the Government for coastal defences - down by 20 per cent in many cases. He said the Government had also made it more difficult for local authorities to get this support. Mr Gummer wants to know who is to be in overall charge of countering the threat to the coastline and is urging the minister to establish an integrated programme of action.

The threat to Britain's coastline - illustrated so dramatically when a large chunk of Beachy Head crashed down is a product both of global warming, which is causing sea levels to rise, and the tilting effect that is a legacy of the last lee Age. Monitoring equipment has



picked up yawning cracks in the cliffs on the Isle of Wight, at Freshwater Bay, and a £2 million scheme is to save the cliff road from collapse is ready to go into action.

Yesterday the Environment Agency warned sightseers to stay well away from Beachy Head, where a 50ft by 200ft section of the chalk cliff-face tumbled into the sea on Sunday night. A spokesman for the agency said: "The conditions are absolutely atrocious with high winds and lots of rain. We could get a large cliff fall at any time".

A geotechnics expert whose firm advises councils and Mr

sion said that the coast from Yorkshire down through East Anglia and south along to West Dorset and Devon was vulnerable. Dr Alan Clark said: "It is impossible to say where the next collapse will occur. But you only need to look at the geology of the British coast to see where it is at risk." One of the areas most at risk, he said. was the Holderness Coast, run-

clay and over the past 1.000 years has lost about a mile. At Freshwater Bay, near Afton Down, where the hazard-

ning from Spurn Head to Brid-

lington, which is made of soft

fored pile driving will hold up the road when - rather than if - the Isle of Wight rock face collapses. Dr Clark said. Global warming is forecast

to bring an average rise in sea levels of 24 centimetres in the next 50 years because of thermal expansion of the oceans and melting glaciers, according to the Hadley Centre, part of the Meteorological Office at Bracknell. Britain is also tilting because of movements associated with the last Ice Age, with Scotland rising and the

South of England falling.

Dr Clark, who works for High-Point Rendel in London.

said yesterday that the Hadley Centre estimated that, when the filt effect was factored in. sea levels around northern Scotland would rise by 16 centimetres and those in southern England by 31 centimetres by

the middle of the next century. He said other features of global warming, including more violent storms, rainfall and waves, could hasten cliff col-The rate of loss is currently

a metre a year on the south coast, Martin Lee of Newcastle University said yesterday. On parts of the east coast, the rate is twice that, and in some places even more rapid. The composition of the cliffs helps determine the rate of exosion. Mr Lee a geomorphologist, said that the cliffs on the east coast were deposited by gla-ciers between 15,000 and 30,000 years ago. They were made up of clay and rocks. and far softer than the chalk cliffs of the south, which were formed during the Cretaceous period 30 million to 100 mat. lion years ago. Both kinds of coastline are being under-

mined by wave action. The rubble formed by the collapse at Beachy Head will eventually be washed away, leaving the foot of the cliffs valnerable to wave action. Above this the chalk is rick-

died with fractures, fissures and cracks more than a metre wide. Some of these expand and become unstable due to effects such as rainwater seeping down through the chalk. Martin Culshaw, an engineering geologist at the British Geological Survey in Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, sak he believed the heavy winter rains, and the exceptional wetness of 1998, caused the sudden collapse. Freezing temper atures can be a factor, but in

tures have been too high. The erosion on the east coast is more akin to a landslide than a collapse, with the cliffs slipping into the sea because of internal pressures rather than breaking off.

this case he believes tempera-

Again, waves erode the foot of the cliffs helping to aggra-vate huge pressures building up in the layers of clay pressing against each other.

Eventually the pressure, which is also polishing the surfaces of clay, reaches a critical point and one of the layers slides down into the sea; Mr Culshaw said the erosion can be accelerated by drought followed by heavy rains.

Concern over the cost of deling vulnerable shorelines. prompted the Environment Agency to consider reduc-

Letters, page 19

Smoking closes 'mortality gap'

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEN are beginning to close the mortality gap with wom-en, largely because they are more successful at giving up

smoking.
The latest set of statistics ind Institute of Actuaries which monitors death rates to help determine life insurance premiums, lts figures, based on the numbers of policy hold-ers who died between 1991 and 1994, show that the average life expectancy for men since 1978 has increased by 14 per cent, while women's has in-

creased by only 12 per cent. When the actuaries made their last survey, from 1975 to 1978, the average male policy holder aged 30 could expect to live to be 76. Today he can expect to live three years and three months longer. The average 30 year old woman in the first survey could expect to reach 83 and 11 months. Today. she can look forward to living three years and five months

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Although this means that the actual mortality gap has widened slightly, the fact that men's longevity is increasing at a faster rate than that of women, coupled with the fact that more men are giving up smoking, means that the difference is bound to start narrow-

The mortality rate for women who smoked was twice as high as the rate for non-smokers while for men it was 1.7 times higher. This means that on average a 30-year-old wornan smoker will die seven years sooner than a non-smoker while a 30-year-old male smoker will die 5.5 years sooner than a male non-smoker. Since 1990, when the actuaries last collected information oo smoking, the proportion of men who smoked fell from 31 per cent to 25 per cent while the number of female smokers fell from 25 per cent to 21 per cent. The majority of men who smoked were older than 40 but the majority of women who smoked were under 40.

Figures from the Office of National Statistics suggest that the mortality gap between the sexes will narrow by 21/2 months over the next 25 years.

'McLibel' case back in court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE marathon libel battle brought by McDonald's against two environmentalists returned to court yesterday when the pair lodged an apgainst the ruling that they had libelled the compa-

McDonald's launched the libei suit after Dave Morris, 44, and Helen Steel, 33, distributed pamphlets entitled What's wrong with McDonald's? Everything they don't want you to know. In 1997, Mr Justice Bell found in McDonald's favour on some points, but also up-held the pair's claim that the chaio's advertising overstated its food's nutritional benefit. and that it had exploited children through its advertising, was responsible for animal cruelty and paid low wages.

The pair now argue that these findings were so damn-ing to the reputation of Me-Donald's that the corporation's claim for libel should have been thrown out.

The hearing, at the Court of Appeal, continues.

Minister drops plan to ban untreated milk BY MICHAEL HORNSBY,

BY ERANCES GIBB

AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT THE Government has abandoned plans to ban the sale of unpasteurised milk, despite concern that it could be contain inated with harmful bacteria. Nick Brown, the Agricul

> ers of untreated milk that he has "put a stop" to the ban, which was proposed in November 1997. Mr Brown has decided that the risks from drinking "green top" milk, which accounts for no more than I per cent of total milk sales, do not justify removing the right of consumers to buy it. The Government is

ture Minister, has told produc-

milk production, including more frequent hygicue tests. paid for by producers. Pasteurisation involves heating milk to a temperature required to kill potentially harmful pathogens, such as salmonella, campylobacter, E. coli

expected, however, to impose

tougher conditions on raw

and tuberculosis. Enthusiasts say that pasteur



Brown: said people had right to buy 'green top'

isation reduces the flavour of untreated milk and leaves it less rich in vitamins and other health-giving properties. Untreated milk has been

banned for sale in Scotland since 1983: In England and Wales, farm shops and milkmen can still sell it with a warning on the label that it may contain organisms harmful to health. Regular drinkers of unpas-

teurised milk include the

burgh, and the Prince of Wales, who are supplied by their own herds of dairy cattle at Windsor and Highgrove. Sir Julian Rose, the chair-

man of the Association of Unpasteurised Milk Producers and Consumers, said vester day: "This is very good news."

"We have campaigned long and hard for the future of green top and it has been clear from the outset that the grounds for a ban never stacked up."

The decision was deplored by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Anne Goodwin, the institute's assistant secretary for food, said: The Government is ignoring: the warnings of its own scientific advisers. It does not make sense to take risks with dangerous new pathogens such as E.coli 0157,"

AF4J-∵:

The ban was proposed on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food after, surveys of raw cows milkfound food poisoning pathogens and "substantial" evidence of faecal contamination.

Tipsters back Hughes for double

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

THE late Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, yesterday received another posthumous prize, the Whitbread Poetry Award, a day after he won the T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize and a year after winning the overall Whit-bread Book of the Year.

His poignant collection. Birthday Letters, goes on to form part of the shortlist for this year's £21,000 Whitbread Book of the Year, to be announced later this month. He won last year with Tales from

In the Whitbread's 28th vear. Hughes faces competition from Justin Cartwright, who yesterday won the Novel Award: Amanda Foreman. who was singled out for the Bi-ography Award for her first book, on Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire; and Giles Foden, deputy literary editor of The Guardian, who took the First Novel Award.

Hughes's powerful verse about his tragic relationship with Sylvia Plath is the favourite both with the bookmakers William Hill and many in the literary world. The Whithread judges, who included the poet U.A. Fanthorpe, said: "In this

very personal collection Hughes avoids every pidall - of remorse, self-pity, self-justification — that the subject, his wife's suicide, could have led him into. His account of that relationship seems hewn from granite."

Hughes's daughter, Frieda, a painter and poet, said: "I am so happy that there are people who think he's as extraordinary as I do."-

Among previous Whithread winners are Kazuo Ishiguro's An Artist of the Floating World in 1986, John Richardson's A Life of Picasso in 1991 and Seamus Heaney's The Spirit Level in 1996. Cartwright has won this

year's novel category for Lead-ing the Cheers, the story of recently unemployed man who returns to small-town America for his high-school reunion and rediscovers a past life, vastly different from his own successful cosmopolitan existence in London.

The Children's Book of the Year will be announced on January 26, with the overall winner from the other categories. BBC2 will broadcast the cere-

Duke stays with Navy for liaison job

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Duke of York is to remain in the Navy, and will be promoted to a new post in international relations, the Ministry of Defence announced yesterday.

Last year the Duke, 38, indicated that he might leave the Navy after nearly 20 years' service, but he has been persuaded to accept promotion to the rank of commander and to take on a challenging role lizising with other navies.

Currently a lieutenant-commander working in the Directorate of Naval Operations in Whitehall, the Duke will remain at MoD headquarters when he

Commence of the property of th

takes up his new post in April with the diplomacy section of the Naval Staff Directorate. It will entail a £9,000 pay rise to £45,000. The Duke is understood to have been persuaded to stay by the challenge of the new job and the lack of a regular family life to return to. His royal duties re-

main relatively light.
His new post will involve the planning and administration of bilateral naval staff talks, as well as other lizison duties in Britain and overseas.

An MoD spokesman said last night "The Duke will make full use of the extensive experience he has gained with MoD and elsewhere. He has a unique blend of skills; clearly his royal background will help, plus he has a fundamental understanding of the working of MoD."

Buckingham Palace said last night that the Queen had been consulted on the appointment and that she and the Duke of Edinburgh were "very pleased".

The Duke joined the Navy commission in 1979, and saw active service as a helicopter pilot during the Falklands conflict. He is currently responsible for the effectiveness of frigate and destroyer aviation.

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Queen, the Duke of Edin-To us French isn't

Scheduled Courses:

isters - Kenneth Clarke and David Mellor - are on the teamsheet for the FA Premier League in its court battle over television rights.Mr -Clarke, the former Tory Chancellor, who is a Nottingham Forest supporter, will find himself on the care, will find himself on the care, will find himself on the same side as the Labour MP Joe Ashton, a Sheffield Wednesday director and chairman of the all-party parlia-mentary football group, who is also being called by the League to give evidence. The Football Task Force,

headed by David Mellor, a Chelsea fan and former Tory minister, has backed the Premier League's fight to preserve its exclusive broadcasting agreement with BSkyB and the BBC.

The Director-General of Fair Trading wants to outlaw the £743 million deal on the grounds that it is anti-competitive and against the public interest. In a case expected to last four months, the OFT will contend that the League's 20 member-clubs are operating as a cartel by selling their

rights collectively. Yesterday was the opening day of the most expensive legal case in British sporting history, estimated to be costing up to £25 million. Charles Aldous, £25m case starts with warning

on the threat to life blood of

football, reports John Goodbody

ing succeeded in having the collective broadcasting agree-ment declared unlawful. Allowing the clubs to sign in-dividual agreements with othin a free-for-all and saturation television coverage, he said.

"The life blood of football

has always been its supporters, those prepared to attend borne and away matches at all times of the year and in all kinds of weather," he told Mr Justice Perris, sitting with two

We must avoid a situation where fans stay at home in increasing numbers to watch the more fashionable clubs on tele-

At the moment only 60 Preto E25 million. Charles Aldous,
QC, for the League, told the Restrictive Practices: Court that the "life blood" of English soccer—the fans—would drain away if the Office of Fair Trad-

be screened live on satellite, cable or terrestrial channels.

Mr Aldous said the deal benefited football as a whole, not just Premier League clobs, each of which was shown on television at least three times last station. He argued that money filtered down to small clubs and the roots of the game. The issue of collective negoti-ation way not just relevant to

eming bodies of sports such as right union and cricket were watching the case with concern. Evidence in the case will start next Monday. The Pre-mier League's witnesses will also include the Chelsea chairman Ken Bates, the referee David Elleray and the former England player David Plan.
News International, the sub-

sidiary of The News Corporation that owns The Times. owns 40 per cent of BSkyB.



Each night Phil Naish dresses as a pharaoh and tries to reflect the life of Ancient Egypt in his Cardiff home

The man who takes after his mummy

FROM the outside it is just an ordinary terraced house. But behind the front door lie the wonders of Ancient Egypt, and Cardiff's very own Pharoah.

Phil Naish has turned his fascination into an art form. Every evening he dons clothes similar to those worn by Rameses the Great, then reclines in one of his two replica thrones.

The house in Roath, Cardiff, has become a shrine to the rulers of Ancient Egypt. Mr Naish, a 40-year-old art-Suzanne shares his interest. Their home is packed with replicas of Egyptian stat-ues, paintings and jewellery. His most prized object is a scarab 4000 years old, used by the builders of the pyramids to mark the end of a day's work. He said: "I have become quite well known locally for my interest. In fact, I've been given

drops pla treated m

second nature



Alistair Hector: planned to return to Scotland;

Briton dies in South African carjacking

By Tem Jones and Ray Kennedy

A FATHER of two young boys who was planning to return to Scotland from South Africa be-cause his wife was terrified by a growing tide of violence has been murdered just yardsfrom his home.

Alistair Hector, 52, who was born in Stonehaven and educated at Laurencekirk, near Aberdeen, was left to die in the road after being shot in the head by a gang and dragged from his pick-up truck.

Mr Hector, a scif-employed engineer, had put his house in Benoni, near Johannesburg, on the market and hoped to return to Scotland in the spring. His mother, Catherine, said yesterday that he had been in South Africa for 14 years, but his wife. Margaret, 47, had be come concerned for the safety la u. Frenchigi of their two sons, Kevin, nine

and Marc, eight.
"It is just dreadful. He was." at a junction just a few yards from his home when they came towards him and shot him in his car. Then they pulled him out and drove away in it," she said. "Although he loved the coun-

try, Margaret wanted to come home because she was terrified by the violence. She told me gunmen just picked driv-ers at random and shot them

to get their cars.
"I asked Margaret if anyone saw the killing, but she said there is no way people would come forward because they would be next to be killed. Marcia Havemann, of the

Johannesburg police, said that Mr Hector's car had been found abandoned near the coalmining town of Ogies, 30 miles from the scene of the crime. "We are shocked. No we want to send out the message that we will investigate this murder," inspector Have-

Five Britons were injured in Cape Town last August when a bomb exploded at the Planet Hollywood restaurant. The Foreign Office warms people visiting South Africa to be on guard against carjacking and armed robbery, to avoid driv-ing in rural areas at night, and to stay away from townships.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GP denies three more murders

nering infer of his women pa-tients. Harold Shipman, 22, of Hyde, near Manchester, is ac-cused of killing eight patients. In a 12-minute, hearing at Preston, Crown Court vester-day, Dr. Shipman derived more deriving Bhanks, Pompret, 49. Wanifed Mellor, 73, and Joan Melia, 73. Four other murder charges were adjourned to March I at Manchester Crown Court He has already denied murdering Kathleen Grundy, 81, a former mayoress of Hyde. The trial has been set for October.

A bridge too fast

A Tony MP was banned from driving for 14 days after being caught travelling at nearly twice the speed finit. Howard Flight, who speaks for his party on transport issues, admit-ted driving at 73mph over a 40mph bridge. He was fined 5540 by Ipswich magistrates.

Helmet safety.

A comparing to cut the mainter of deaths among the 8 million child cyclists has received further than 100 from the National Lottery. The Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust wants to increase the percentage of children who were a behine from 18 percent in a best 40 nor cent. cent to at least 40 per cent.

lie hanging

A 13 year old girl was in a serious condition in hospital after-being found hanging by her school lie. Her mother cut her down and dialled 999, and was advised on resuscitation until an ambulance arrived at

Footballer fined

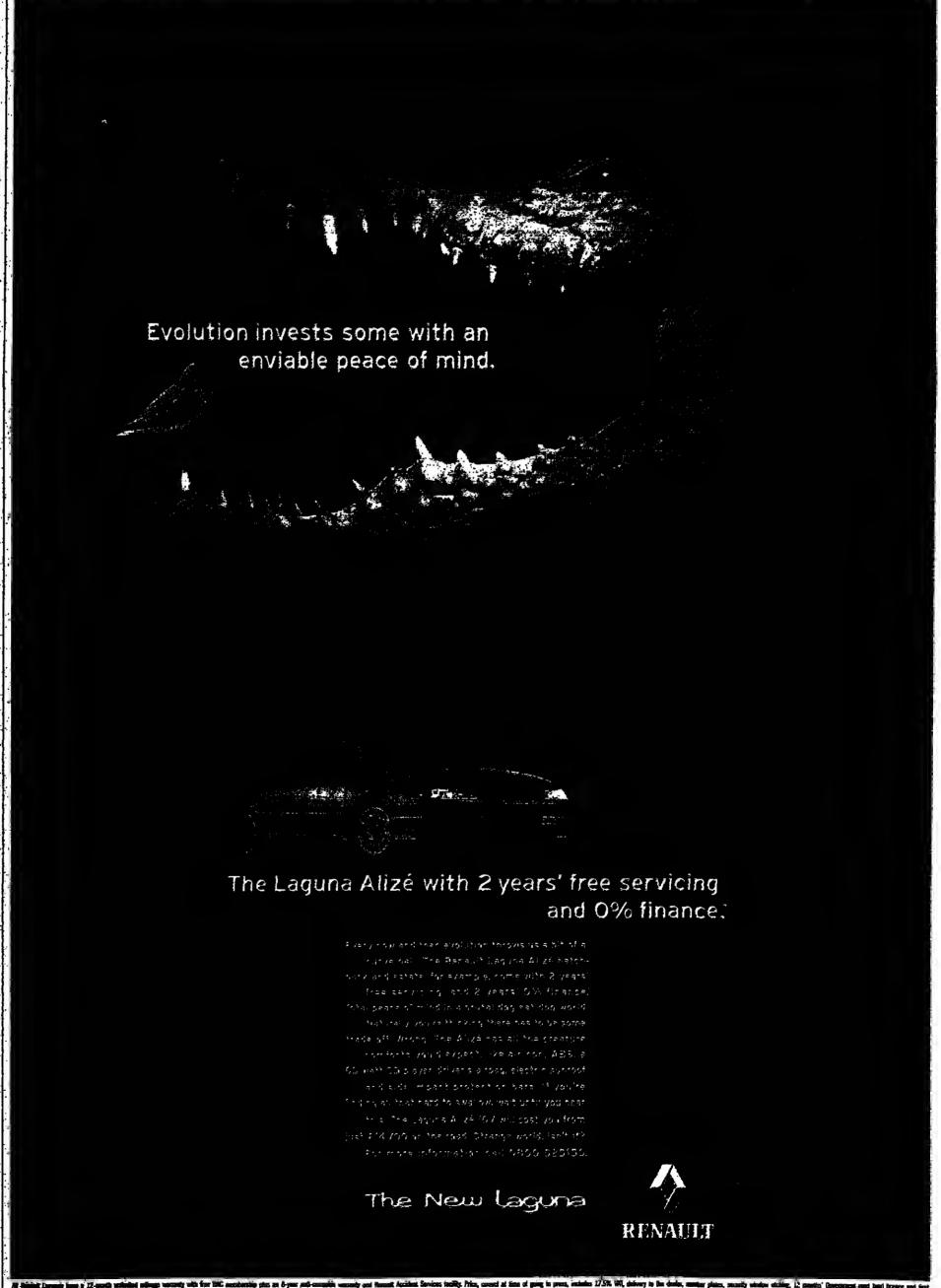
Footballer Trevos Sinclair was fined £250 and ordered to was fined £250 and ordered to pay £225 compensation for leaping on a tecnage girls car during drunken horse-play af-ter his West Ham chib's Christ-mas party. Sinclair, 25, plead-ed guilty at Havering Magis-trates Court. East London.

Beatle damages

George Harrison, the former Beafle, accepted an apology and substantial damages over an allegation in a book, All crime "We are shocked No Dressed Up: The States and crime is acceptable to us and the County Canting by Jonath-we want to send out the mes- on Green that he had sexual favours in return for a dona-tion to the charity, Release.

Pour getaway

A safe carried away by thieves The safe was taken from Trent Buses in Huckmall, Notting-hamsbire. A spokesman said. "We never keen money on the premises and the only bonds in the safe were Brooke Bond."



Ethics commissioner could help ministers avoid scandal

not the first time that a minister bas faced ethical charges. There have been many such episodes in the last few years: Jonathan Aitken, Neil Hamilton, Lord Simon of Highbury, the Bernie Ecclestone affair, and Geoffrey Robinson. A common thread is that the inquiries

were mishandled by Whitehall. All new ministers receive a copy of the Ministerial Code, revised last year. This sets out a long list of potential problems for ministers to watch, on which they should consult their permanent secretaries.

But the latter are not experts on ethi- flawed, as Sir Robin Butler's inavoidable. It was after all, cal issues, so interpretations can vary between departments. And they are responsible to these same.

> A number of ministers and special advisers have told me how unsatisfactory this system is. They have found it hard to get clearcut advice. There is naturally a tendency for civil servants to tell their ministers that everything is all right. When wrongdoing is alleged, the

Prime Minister has usually asked have been followed. This is also next month. Elizabeth Filkin has

quiry into allegations against Mr Aitken showed. The Cabinet Secre-tary is not a detective or an investigating magistrate. He is not really in a positison to challenge the truth of claims made by a minister. He has to accept that the minister is truthful and honourable.

One solution is to extend the remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards who investigates charges against MPs and examines compliance with the registhe Cabinet Secretary to conduct a ter of members' interests. Even be-rapid inquiry to see whether rules fore she takes over as commissioner



floated the idea that ber office should inquire not just into the affairs of MPs but also "what they do if they happen to be in ministerial positions". The Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life is reviewing the issue in its review of the implementation of the Nolan report. Ms Filkin is wrong. Ministers

fused. Ministers are accountable to the Commons, but their appointment is dependent on the Prime-Minister. Their conduct as ministers should be examined separately.

better answer would be to have an independent ethics commissioner who, with a small staff, would advise ministers and investigate any allegations of wrongdoing. Such a commissioner would act like the Business Appointments Committee in advising ministers, and special advisers, on how to

from the Civil Service, and therefore able to question ministers.

Ministers would be under an obligation to consult such a commissioner on their appointment to discuss any potential conflicts of interest. That would, for instance, have allowed Lord Simon to answer the unfair charges over his BP shares. It would also have forced Mr Mandeison to deal with the consquences of his loan from Mr Robinson when he became a minister, and again when he became Trade and

are also usually MPs, but the roles handle potential conflicts of intermediating and should not be conest. He or she would be separate secretary of the Nolan committee is est. He or she would be separate secretary of the Nolan committee, is would undermine democratic accountability. However, such a commissioner would quickly be able to deal with charges about conflicts of interest, and thus dampen the current feverish mood in which the press and the Opposition chase any claims and demand resignations.

That encourages cynicism about politics and discourages businessmen and others with outside interests from becoming involved in politics. An ethics adviser might help to

'Insulting' envoy rebuked by new Labour women

By Valerie Elliott, whitehall editor

SIR DAVID GORE-BOOTH, the Old Etonian former ambassador, yesterday mounted a robust defence of pollocal in-correctness after facing the wrath of two new Labour wom-

His alleged faux pas was to describe British women in Saudi Arabia as "company wives", a term considered "deeply offensive" and "a generic sub-class" by Helen Jones, (War-rington North and ex-Ursuline Convent, Chester) and Linda Clark, QC (Edinburgh Pentlands and ex-Lawside Academy, Dundee).

But Sir David, the son of a former head of the Foreign Office who has survived 34 years of diplomatic manoeuvrings and shenanigans, was dearly mystified. "I don't think FCO (Foreign and

Office) wives will be marching in the streets if they are called FCO wives." He also renewed his attack on the 'erosion of ministerial responsibil-

ity towards civil servants and after the hearing he suggested ger of being staffed by "yesdiplomacy has prompted new guidance to ambassadors on how to handle complaints.

Sir David, 55, appeared before the Commons Public Administration Committee yesterday to defend his role after being censured by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. Michael Buckley, for high-handed be-haviour towards Paul Surtees, a former British Aerospace employee, in Saudi Arabia.

Sir David, who served as: High Commissioner in New Delhi and as Ambassador in Riyadh, found himself under attack over his style of language in a letter to the British Aerospace chief executive about complaints from Mr Surtees. Rhodri Morgan, the Labour committee chairman. compared Sir David to a char-

This concentration on language is bizarre ... I am perhaps not a very politically correct person?

hoss and said it was "an incredibly disrespectful tone". At one point a bemused Sir David admitted: "I find this

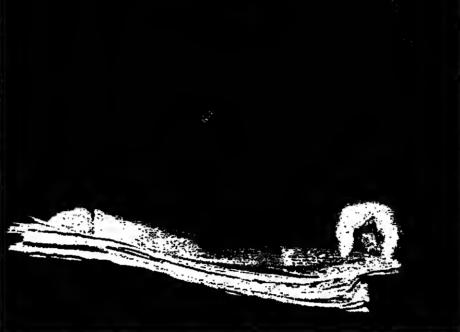
concentration on language totally bizarre." He later conceded: "I am perhaps not a very politically correct person." Ms Jones was not amused: "You saw individuals purely as creatures of their companies. What is a company wife?

I find your language in that let-ter extremely offensive. Can you define to me what is a company wife? Sir David: "I don't myself find anything offensive about the phrase company wife. Company wife means the wife

of someone employed in the company." Ms Jones: "So you think women working abroad are defined purely by

the company for which their husbands work? Sir David: "I find nothing offensive about the term company wife any more than I find any-

Ms Jones: 'Perhaps that says much about the attitude of the Foreign Office." Dr Clark told Sir David that



Sir David yesterday: he said he found nothing offensive in the term "company wife"

guage "rather insulting" and suggested he should avoid it. She said: "Can you take it from me that some women do find it offensive to be classed as some kind of generic sub-class." Sir David replied: "The offence is in the eye of the be-

sort of arrogance? Was it at your father's knee? Was it at . Eton? Was it in 34 years in the diplomatic service?

But Sir David said the word "arrogant" was pejorative and unnecessary. He was unrepentant about the Surtees case, disagreed with the Om-Peter Bradley, Labour MP budsman's findings, and dis-for The Wrekin, added approved of the £5.000 com-

the Head of the Diplomatic Service, later told MPs it was "a disgraceful incident in which a triple apology was in order". But he did not believe one mistake" should blemish Sir. David's distinguished career. Sir John described his excolleague as "a cavalier. I am something of a roundhead." But he added: "I do not want a

MPs to tell Blair Mandelson must stay on sidelines

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR will today face blanket opposition from Labour MPs against Peter Man-delson making an early return

to government.
The Prime Minister will be told that the mood of the party is strongly against a comeback before the next election as friends of Mr Mandelson admitted such talk was severely damaging the former Trade Secretary. Mr Blair is also be-ing warned by leading figures that his standing will suffer un-less he puts distance between himself and his follow friend

himself and his fallen friend. The Prime Minister is coming under pressure to be seen to criticise Mr Mandelson and get away from the impression that he cannot do without him. The strength of feeling goes

far beyond party traditional-ists. Even loyalist MPs say the mood has hardened since the. parliamentary term started on Monday.

It emerged yesterday that Mr Mandelson could soon take up a strategic role for Labour in this year's local, European, Scottish and Welsh elec-tions, although he is believed to be cautious about moving back to Millbank, the party's headquarters, because it would look like a return to his spin-doctor past. Senior MPs, though, believe that he could give the party's campaign for the coming elections much

needed shape and direction. Today's warning will be delivered when Mr Blair meets. Labour's Parliamentary Com-mittee, the liaison body between backbenchers and ministers, for the first time since Mr Mandelson quit. The Prime Minister will also be warned of the dangers of allowing Mr Mandelson to act as his link man with the German Government, a role he played last week to the astonishment

However, a Downing Street spokesman said Mr Mandelson wanted to be out of frontline politics "for the forseeable. future" and that all other sug-

gestions were "hype and mis-chief-making". Ken Livingstone, the left-wing MP for Brent East, yesterday accused Mr Mandel-son of having dragged Labour "through the mud". He said the MP for Hartlepool had disgraced the party name with his personal ambition and pri-

SHEETS HIS PARK DES

vate gain". Mr Mandelson was facing a further storm with the accusa-tion that he planned to oust both Mr Brown and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to position himself as Tony Blair's heir apparent after the next election. The claim is made in the unauthorised biography, out next week, by the journalist Paul Romledge

Mr Blair will also come imder pressure in the Commons today as William Hague bas his first chance to raise Mr Mandelson's departure at Prime Minister's Questions and a Liberal Democrat motion will accuse ministers of allowing personal rivalries to mar the presentation of policy.

about the term FCO wife." acter straight out of Evelyn Waugh, who satirised the manners of the upper classes. Mr Morgan objected to Sir men and time-servers". Never-theless the Gore-Booth style of to describe Mr Surtees to his

"Where do you acquire that pensation paid. Sir John Kerr," many women found such lan-

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Labour to give up veto on life peers

service of automatons."

By JAMES LANDALE. POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to give up his power to veto potential life peers nominated by the Tories and Liberal Democrats as part of the Government's plans to reform the House of Lords: In a significant reduction in

his patronage, the Prime Minister will next week promise not to interfere in lists of nominees put forward by William Hague and Paddy Ashdown, Mr Blair will restrict his patronage further by allowing a new appointments commis-

sion to nominate independent crossbench peers without interference from Downing Street. The moves will come as part of the Government's White Paper on Lords reform which is expected to be published next week. The appointments commission will have seven mem-

bers: an independent chairman, three representatives of the main political parties, and three non-partisan appointees. The new body will take over the bulk of the work of the existing Political Honours Scrutiny Committee in vetting poten-tial life peers for financial and

other improprieties.

The members are expected to be appointed later this year. and start work once hereditary peers have lost their sitting and voting rights. The Government is expected shortly to appoint more Labour life peers - probably 50 - to ensure broadly equal numbers

with the Tories. A Whitehall source said: The appointments commission will take over the appointment of crossbenchers. The Prime Minister will undertake to present its recommendations to the Queen without interference. That will also be true of nominations from oth-

er political leaders." Political working peers are appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of Downing Street. Mr Blair will retain control over the power of patronage that matters - the number of new peers given to

But for the first time since 1958 when life peers were created, a Prime Minister will not have full control over the lists



Baroness Dean and Lord Pym are thought to be possible members of the new appointments commission

sent to Buckingham Palace. If the lists of nominees put forward by Mr Hague and Mr Ashdown are accepted by the their names will go direct to the Queen without change.

Prime Ministers in the past

are understood to have blocked specific individuals put forward by opposition leaders. Although the secrecy surrounding such appointments makes this difficult to prove, both Tory and Labour sources last night admitted that horse-trading between the leaders offices had taken place. There were undoubtedly occasions when the Labour Party leadership put forward a name and that name was then blocked, one Labour

Tony Blair this week made clear his enthusiasm to give up certain powers of patronage in an interview on the BBC's Breakfast with Frost programme. "I have made it clear ... that I see a reduction in the powers of patronage of the Prime Minister during the course of this first stage of change," he said.

"There will be an appointments commission that will be independent from the Prime Minister and the appointments commission will recommend crossbenchers in the fu-

Sources said no thought had yet been given to possible members of the commission But they could include Lord Pym. the former Tory minis-Thornton-le-Fylde, the former



print union leader, who are both members of the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee. Others could be Lord Nolan. the former law lord, a suitable bishop, a judge and a representative of ordinary people.

The Covernment's plans to reform the House of Lords will begin near week when a short Bill scrapping the right of he-reditary peers to sit and vote is introduced into the Commons. If a deal struck by Viscount Cranborne, the former Tory leader in the Lords, survives under which the Tories would accept the Bill in return for saving some 91 hereditary peers in the short term — the meas-

this summer. Next week's White Paper will also set out the terms and conditions of a royal commission to recommend wider, fullscale reforms of the Upper

ure could become law later

its chairman will be announced next week and it should start work next month. | ing this wrong."

Pension payouts for men sacked at GCHQ

BY JAMES LANDALE

WORKERS sacked from the Government's GCHQ intelligence-gathering centre for refusing to leave their union are to be compensated for lost pen-

- Robin Cook praised the 14 men for their principled stand in the 1980s against Margaret Thatcher's ban on union membership at the communications centre near Cheltenham.

The Tory Government claimed that union membership posed a security threat and offered £1,000 to each of the 7.000 staff to leave their unions. The 14 who refused were

in a written answer to a Commons question, the Foreign Secretary said yesterday that he had reached agree ment in principle for the compensation after talks with the Council of Civil Service Unions and the TUC.

"This decision reflects the principled stand which the 14 trade unionists took, to the point of dismissal, against the attempt to take away their basie trade union rights." he said The pension compensa-tion will be provided through a special scheme, which will be laid before Parliament once the details have been finalised. The sums paid to each man will depend on indi-

vidual circumstances. John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, said: "This finally closes a sorry chapter in British history. Robin Cook deserves great credit for right-

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Princess's fund gives £1m to mine charities

Poto tell Bla THE Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund yesterday handed over more than El million to 13 landmine charities. All of the grants have gone to victims' organisations, and none to mine clearance

groups.
The Princess of Wales was involved in all aspects of the anti-landmine cause during the last year of her life and some clearance charities have criticised the fund for concentrating solely on victims. Andrew Purkis, the fund's chief executive, defended the trustees' decision.

"This is a beginning, it is not the end. We are committed to working with and for the survivors of landmines long-term and sticking at it year in and year out." be said.
"We are strongly in favour in the principle of landmine

clearance, but what we have to keep asking ourselves is how we can best make a difference with our money. I certainly would not exclude involvement in mine clearance in the

One of the charities that did get a grant was Tim's Fund, set up in memory of 23-yearold Timothy Goggs, who died while clearing landmines in Afghanistan in 1992. His parTrustees are criticised for

refusing to help mine clearance

groups, reports Michael Harvey

ents, Henrietta and Quentin, of Devizes, Wiltshire, said that the £70,000 grant was particularly appropriate. "Tim's Fund is a memorial project, the Di-ana Fund is a memorial project and the work of both those people is now going for-ward together." Mrs Goggs

Tim Goggs was posthumous-ly awarded the George Medal for his bravery in trying to rescue his colleagues in the mine explosion that killed him. He left a legacy to Christian Aid for a programme to teach people how to recognise mines and to mark minetields for later destruction.His parents have continued to raise money

for the cause. Tim Goggs had volunteered to go to Afghanistan while waiting to take up a commission at Sandhurst after com-

University. He loved the work so much that he stayed for 18 months until his death. He was in charge of a Halo Trust team clearing mines near Ka-bul, using a Russian tank to push two eight-tonne mine roll-

The tank ran into a boobytrap designed to stop such a clearance, and three mines exploded directly underneath it. igniting the fuel tank. Tim got out but went back for a friend, Julian Gregson. In doing so, he fatally damaged his lungs. He was flown to Britain but died nearly two weeks later.
Mr Goggs said: "Tim loved what he did and we have trav-

elled to Afghanistan to see the wheat fields growing where he cleared the mines. We wrote to Princess Diana to tell her about the project should she want to go to Afghanistan Her want to go to Afghanistan. Her staff rang back to say she was very interested but it was not to be. She would have approved of this grant."

The trustees of the Princess's fund courted controversy by de-clining to fund the British Red Cross's work for landmine victims. The Red Cross was pivotal in encouraging the Princess in her crusade against mines is and took her on her high-pro-



Quentin and Henrietta Goggs, whose son. Tim, was killed while clearing mines in Afghanistan. Tim's memorial charity was awarded £70,000

file trip to Angola in January from £11,000 to £125,000, only 1997. Dr Purkis said that the one was to a charity directly as-Red Cross grant application did sociated with the Princess. The not meet the necessary criteria. Landmine Survivors Network. but that the fund looked for- which hosted the Princess's trip ward to working with the organ- to Bosnia in August 1997, re-

isation in the near future. ceives £113,000 in partnership
Of the 13 grants, ranging with the Leonard Cheshire In-

ه کوزون راندمل

ternational charity to continue Campaign; £39,600 for Motiva-its work in Bosnia with the dis-tion; £20,000 for Disability abled victims of landmines.

The other grants were: £125,000 for Action on Disability and Development; £120,000 for Concern Worldwide; Overseas; £52,000 for War on £123,000 for the Jaipur Limb

sion; and £110,000 for the Save the Children Fund.

A grant of £60,000 was made to the UK Working Group on Landmines, the umbrella organisation that cam-

SALVAGING HMS ROYAL OAK'S CARGO OF OIL Oil leaking from the hull will gradually full the collector and can then As the ship's hull corrodes HMS Royal Oak lies in 30m o

Navy to remove oil from sunken war grave

FOR 60 years HMS Royal Oak has lain undisturbed, a grave for the 833 men who died when the battleship

was torpedoed by a U-boat.

The fight to preserve the dignity of the wreek, in Scapa Flow off Orkney, has grown fiercer in recent years as the thousands of tonnes of oil seeping from the corroding hull threaten environmental disaster.

Today the Royal Navy will conduct a unique operation that it hopes will remove the oil without needing to cut open the war grave.

Divers will attach a £20,000 steel

'umbrella" to the upturned hull to trap the oil before bringing it to the surface where it will be removed each month. It is estimated that the wreck will be empty by 2014. Conservationists, anxious to pro-

Gillian Harris on a clean-up that will leave the wreck of HMS **Royal Oak** intact and reduce the threat to wildlife in Scapa Flow

tect Scapa Flow's large seal popula-tion and several species of rare birds, would prefer a quicker solu-

"It's a time bomb," Eric Meek, an officer with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said. "The ship is lying less than half a mile offshore and at this time of year Scapa Flow is an area of major importance for

Arctic wintering birds.

"Thick furnace oil is leaking through thousands upon thousands." of corroded rivers, and adding another 15 years to the 60 years it has already lain there is crazy. The extraction has to be speeded up before we have a disaster on our hands," Staff from the Royal Navy's Environmental Unit in Bath, who devised the scheme, want to disturb the

wreck as little as possible. Slicing into the buil to siphon off what remains of 3,500 tonnes of fuel has been rejected as unsuitable. The crew of the Royal Oak, which sank in October 1939, are not forgotten in Orkney. Each year the island-ers hold a service of remembrance in

which Navy divers hoist the White Ensign on the ship's stern. Roger Tollervy, the project's direc-

tor, spent two years on the plan. He re-trieved the ship's plans from the Maritime Museum at Greenwich to create a three-dimensional computer model. Divers then established that oil was escaping through holes created by shrunken rivets.

Awareness in Action/Pan Afri-

can Federation of Disabled

People: £120,000 for POWER;

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The divers found that it was the natural action of the tide and winds that was pushing the oil to the surface. Mr Tollervy realised that if a structure could be put in place above the hull, the oil would float into it.

"The hull is surprisingly strong and our intention is to secure the steel canopy, check that the rate of

leakage has been accurately estimated and that the device can adequately contain it, and then accelerate the flow," he said. Before taps can be attached to the rivets to guide the oil out more quickly, the canopy has to be tested.

Allan Thomson, managing director of Briggs Marine, a Fife-based construction company, believes that the canopy built from the Royal Navy's designs is safe. "We have spent the past three months amending the original concept," he said. "One side of the canopy has been made longer than the other to compensate for the way she is listing."
Bob Moore, director of Orkney 1slands Council Harbours, said: "It's a compromise but hopefully a speedi-

er solution can be arrived at in time."

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more comfortable.

TWO spare anchors from the store. While they are similar to former Royal Yacht Britannia- military anchors, a small dehave been put up for sale, and sign difference means they can-

: Although tenders are sought The anchors, which are for their sale, the ministry about six feet tall and weigh may also consider giving them about three tonnes, have been to a museum or another interput out to tender after being ested party if it was felt to be

£97,000 puts fearsome tank back on track

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

German Tiger tank was twice the weight of its adversaries. its armour was twice as thick and its enormous gun made their weapons look like pea-

Now the most complete Tiger tank is to be restored to working order thanks to a £97,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Since the end of the war the 56-tonne Tiger, captured in North Africa in 1943, has been the most popular attraction at the Tank Museum in Bovington, Dorset. When the year-long restoration is complete it will be the only working Tiger tank in the world, and fit to be reintroduced to one of the last people to see it in action.

In 1943 Peter Gugin was a young lieutenant in 48 Battal-ion Royal Tank Regiment, commanding three tanks in Tunisia. Mr Gugin, 78, of Learnington Spa, said: "We arrived in Africa with every confidence in our Churchill tanks but the Tiger was a shock."

The Bovington Tiger was captured at Medjez el Bab on

April 21, during the advance on Tunis. The Germans were on high ground and we advanced in the afternoon up the hill from a valley filled with wheat fields," Mr Gugin said. We not had gone very far

FOR most of the Second, taken out by two beautifully World War the Allies had nothing that could touch it. The passed straight through my tank from the front to the back and set the engine in the rear on fire. Luckily it did not hit any of us and we baled out. "Seconds later the com-

mander and radio operator of a Churchill near us were blown out of the turret and killed with the entire crew. The rest of our tanks started firing and somehow one of the shots hit the Tiger, which was dug in."
When the hill was taken the

fluke nature of the disabling shot was revealed. The twoinch round, which could not have penetrated the armour, had hit the end of the Tiger's 88mm gun, glanced off along the barrel into the turret ring and jammed the turret. Unable to traverse the gun and with the commander slightly wounded, the crew had fled. Restoration of the Tiger is in

tended as a memorial to Allied tank crews who had to face the formidable foe. Kate White, project leader, said: "The Tiger attracts worldwide interest because it was one of the most impressive armoured vehicles of the Second World War.

"It will be on static display in the winter but in the summer it will be operated outdoors, where its unique power and character will be on show."More than 1,300 Tigers were built but no more than 12 are believed to have survived.



The Tiger tank at Bovington will be the only working model



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RUDOLF BIHARY / REUTER



Fischer: tax issue is a British problem

Germany returns to attack on EU taxes

By Charles Bremner

AFTER a Christmas truce. Germany yesterday launched a fresh attack over the nation-Union tax matters.

Calling for rapid steps to closer political union. Josch-ka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, predicted that the EU would be ready for its next round of changes to its basic treaty in 2001. Germany believes that by then only treaty changes should be subject to veto, be said. The key question here is the Union's readiness to accept majority decisions in as many areas as pos-sible," he added. Tony Blair has rejected any

move to majority voting on taxes, along with German calls for closer 'harmony' in fiscal policy, a theme which is being pushed hard hy Bonn in its current turn in the EU presidency. France has also backed the idea of majority

votiog on taxes. Herr Fischer said he was not trying to create difficul-ties for Britain just as Mr Blair was bringing it closer to the EU mainstream. But, he added. "the problem is a Brit-ish ooe, not a Enropean one".

Mr Blair proclaimed the tax argument closed at the Vienna EU summit last month after he won assurances from the Germans that nobody was seeking "uniform" tax rates across the Union.

Presenting Germany's EU programme to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Herr Fischer also reinforced Bonn's demands for a review of Britain's special rebate from the EU budget.

Commission fights to avert censure vote

THE European Commission was under pressure last night to sacrifice two of its members — Edith Cresson of France and Manuel Marin of Spain — as the price for averting a crippling censure vote by the European Parliament over

sleaze and bad management. The stakes were raised in the Commission's showdown with the Parliament when the European People's Party (EPP), the centre-right group that is its second higgest bloc, threw its weight behind a Liberal-Green motion demanding the resignation of the two commissioners deemed most re-

sponsible for malpractice.
With resistance from the dominant Socialist group shaky, the chances are high that a majority of the 626-member assembly could disown the pair in votes tomorrow that risk paralysing the whole EU machine.

The Commission was locked in discussion last night on strategy for cooling the Parliament's ire. Franz Fischler, the Austrian in charge of agriculture, said members were standing behind Mme Cresson and Señor Marin. No Commission member has ever been forced out of office.

Mme Cresson, 65, a controversial former French Prime Minister who is in charge of research and education, is blamed for the mismanagement of millions of pounds in

Showdown will decide fate of two members, writes Charles Bremner

a vocational training pro-gramme, as well as for giving Commission contracts to friends. Señor Marín, 49, a long-serving Commissioner in charge of overseas aid, is held responsible for the mismanagement of tens of millions of pounds in various programmes as well as cronyism. Both have rejected all charges. The Parliament has no pow-

er to dismiss individual commissioners and Jacques Santer, the Commission President. was also supporting his col-leagues after attempting to defuse parliamentary anger on Monday with new anti-sleaze

However a negative vote would inflict crushing discred-n on the Santer team. Continued Commission defiance is certain to boost the vote in favour of all-out censure of the executive. A two-thirds majoriwould automatically sack the whole Commission.

Party political manoeuvring was adding to the confusion in Strasbourg yesterday



Edith Cresson and Manuel Marin, who face being unseated over alleged fraud and mismanagement

group leaders struggled to lay down clear lines for their members. Pauline Green, the British Labour MEP who leads the Socialist bloc, was struggling to stop a sizeable band of German and other rebels backing censure while also resisting the move against the indi-vidual commissioners. "Pick-ing off commissioners is unac-ceptable to us. If you are going to pick one or two then you are going to have to pick them all.

You must sack the lot." But Mrs Green, under pres sure to save the day from Germany and the other left-wing governments, backed away from a primise to support all-out censure if individual commissioners were penalised. Clearly alarmed at the prospect of political disaster, she urged Mr Santer to ensure a favourable vote by fleshing out his reform plans.

Arguing that Commission abuses did not merit full-scale sacking, she charged fellow MEPs with hypocrisy over their failure to clean up sleaze abuses in their own assembly.

By focusing fire on two out of the 20 commissioners, leaders of the Liberals and other smaller groups are making clear their price for saving the skin of the full Commission tomorrow. 'A motion of censure is too blunt a measure. What we need is a selective cull," said Edward McMillan-Scott, leader of the British Tories, who are part of the EPP. Only the Greens and smaller groups fully back censuring the whole Commission.

Anger against Mme Cresson, a hot-tempered Socialist who was close to the late President Mitterrand, intensified after an appearance before the Parliament in which she ridiculed the allegations and snapped at MEPs for failing to listen to her. Señor Marin scored somewhat better with an emotional approach in which he proclaimed his personal honesty while acknowledging that mistakes had been made in his administration.

Leading article, page 19



Slovak ex-minister killed

Bratislava: Jan Ducky, the former Slovak Economy Minister, was assassinated here in front of the apartment block where he lived by a gunman who pumped several bullets into his bead, police reported

yesterday. Mr Ducky, 55, served in the Government of Vladimir Meciar, the authoritarian former Prime Minister, from December 1994 to August 1996. He was a close associate of Mr Meciar, who was ousted in elections last September. Witnesses said Mr Ducky

was shot on Monday hy a man in his thirties, a spokes-

reports recently indicated that he was involved in a number of suspicious husiness deals.

The ex-minister was appointed head of Slovakia's gas utility in April 1997, a post he held until last November. He was also a senior member of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia. Mr. Meciar's former governing party, the higgest in parliament.

Mr Meciars Government

has been replaced by a five-party coalition amid widespread oppositioo to his au-thoritarian style and accusations that it used underhand:

ends. Mafia-style violence has also marred Slovakia's reputa-

Mikulas Dzorinda, the new Slovak Prime Minister, has vowed to clean up the country's image and prepare it for membership of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Despite Slovakia's relative conomic success it was the only country in the ex-communist bloc to be rejected for EU membership talks on political grounds, in the European Commissions opinions on candidate states in 1997. (AFP) Yeltsin's nuclear officers resign

Clinto

THE resignations of four senior members of Russia's armed forces have jeopardised the country's nuclear security and left President Yeltsin in sole charge of the "nuclear stit-case". Komsomolskaya Pravda reported yesterday.

Lieutenant-General Anaini

Sokolov, commander of the Missile Attack Prevention Division, said he felt his work for the army to be "senseless". Three of his deputies also resigned in protest at being brought under the control of the Strategic Missile Troops.
Until now General Sokolov

and his colleagues have been regarded as the President's key advisers on the workings of the "nuclear suitcase". Their resignations follow military reforms designed to cut costs and improve efficiency.

outrage at the loss of the four senior officers and described with derision the results of General Sokolov's request for a further investigation into the merging of the two units. Apparently, the investigation took the form of reprimands for Russia's foremost electronics experts for wearing shoe laces that were too long.

However, Aleksandr Goltz military expert for Itogi magazine, said the resignations were more the result of internal infighting than a matter of military principle and said nuclear security had not been put at risk. "These men are no longer as important as they used to be and it came as quite a shock to them to be stripped of their status," he said.

Russia's nuclear canability remains a threat both to itself. and to the rest of the world. A report last year by Germany's Peace and Conflict Research Foundation said that serious problems with early-warning systems in Russia meant that nuclear weapons were often kept in a permanent state of alert and that they could be launched within minutes of a real or imagined attack. ☐ Washington: The United States imposed economic sancfions against a Moscow university and two other Russian institutions, accusing them of leaking nuclear and missile technology to Iran. (AP)

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'Danger' plant faces inquiry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE government-owned nu-clear fuel company in France is under investigation on suspicion of endangering public health by violating safety regulations at its nuclear waste reprocessing plant in La Hague by the Channel.

Acting on a complaint filed by an anti-nuclear group in 1994, Frédéric Chevallier, an investigating magistrate in Cherbourg, announced an inquiry into the company, Cogema, on suspicion of "putting the life of another in danger by exposing them to the immedi-ate risk of death or injury of a sort leading to mutilation or permanent infirmity, by deliberately violating security oblig-

ations as defined by the law". Cogéma said that it was as-tonished by the action. "Cogé-ma formally disputes the charge that it has abandoned, dumped or arranged to have dumped, waste materials in violation of the law," the com-pany said in a statement.

In 1997, French scientists said they had identified a higher incidence of leukaemia among people living near the plant, and in November Greenpeace claimed airborne radioactivity had been detect-ed at levels thousands of times above normal. Cogéma said the gas, Krypton-85, was not highly toxic.

KNUT VOLLEBAEK, the new chairman of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation.

in Europe, yesterday said the Kosovo hostage crisis was over, and that eight Yugoslav army conscripts, held by the

since last Friday, would be released soon. The Norwegian, on his first visit to Kosovo, could not give details of how a deal had been struck with the Kosovo Liberation Army, or say if any concessions had been made. The KLA had been demanding that at least nine of its fighters

with the conscripts.
"We are demanding that they all be released and that there are no conditions" was all that Mr Volleback would say. KLA sources said they believed a secret deal had been made, in which the Serbs would release some prisoners

held by the Serbs be swapped

During a busy day. Mr Vol-lebaek — dubbed "King Knut" by the press corps for his in-stant success — viewed at first hand how his 700 unarmed monitors in the province have metamorphosed into peace-keepers. In a convoy of distinctive orange Jeeps, the OSCE chairman drove to Podujevo. around which the Yugoslav Army has massed two armoured infantry companies, their tank barrels point-

'King Knut' strikes deal over Kosovo hostages

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRAGAS, KOSOVO

ing the conscripts. Mr Volleback, who is the Norwegian Foreign Minister, suffered the indignity of his armoured vehicle sinking axle-deep into mud just short ethnic Albanian guerrillas

of the army's forward positions. He was rescued by a British monitor in a Land Rover. The British monitors, who have played a crucial role in the hostage negotiations, have admitted that they have become the backbone of the OSCE operation.

Trail stems from our Northern Ireland experience," one former army officer said yes-terday. This whole thing would fall apart pretty quickly He said that last night was



Volleback: demanding

ing in the direction of the hills his fifth spent beneath the where the KLA has been hold-stars; he slept on a flat patch of gravel behind his Land Rover, he said, keeping a wary eye, round the clock, on the Yugo-

slav Army. The Kosovo mission's Chief of Staff, Major-General John Drewienkiewicz, a former British Army head of engineering. . confirmed that the monitors had been venturing well be-yond their original brief of counting troop and guerrilla numbers and equipment.

Over the weekend, when the Yugoslav Army seemed tempted to storm the village of Bajgora, where the army conscripts are being held near the regional KLA headquarters, General Drewienkiewicz said it had been down to the monitors. mostly British and American. to prevent a bloodbath.

"We had to persuade them to step back," he said. "My peo-ple walked the tanks back." In Bragas, a village two miles from Podujevo, the Albanians held a funeral for a local politician assassinated in Pristina on Monday night. His death was blamed, by speakers at the ceremony, on Ser-

bian secret agents.

As he was buried, a volley of fire from a Yugoslav army tank sent dozens of crows into the sky. For Mr Volleback, despite his success on hostages. it was a powerful reminder of how fragile the ceasefire is.

First gas station ready for 'green' cars

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY turned a little greener yesterday with the opening of Europe's first liquid hydrogen filling station. Hydro-gen — three times as powerful as petrol — is being touted as the clean fuel of the Zist century and the race is on to make the first mass-produced hydrogen vehicle.

Since the Green Party entered government - as junior partner to the Social Democrats - industry has pushed hard to develop alternative energy sources.

The filling station, in Hamburg, was symbolic rather than immediately useful. Direct hydrogen injection has proved a complicated way to fuel cars. Prototypes use special fuel cells harnessing 70 per cent of the energy created from the combustion of hydrogen. This compared

favourably with petrol combustion but hydrogen has to be cooled to minus 253C. (minus 423F) to become a liquid. Direct hydrogen is, at the moment, impractical and uncommercial, but DaimlerChrysler has constructed a prototype using a liq-uid methanol that is then converted into hydrogen gas. It said vehicles using hydrogen could be on offer by 2004.

Some Green activists are sceptical about the fuel. Although it produces no environmentally damaging waste — only water — the manufacture of hydrogen requires huge energy expenditure. That might make ecological sense for airships — another hydrogen project — but not for mass car production. Even so, the idea has caught the spirit of the times.

Yesterday the German renewable energy company WRE said it would begin selling "green" electricity in Eogland and Wales in April. The electricity regulator, Offer, has given WRE the go-ahead to supply households using the grid system from a consortium of companies that harness solar, water, wind and hio-power.

Our prices will be about 10 per cent above others but will not be unrealistic rather they will be in the top third of competitors," said Martin Jakubowski, a WRE director. "In the long term WRE will be able to reduce its electricity price through economies as well as hig and efficient plants." The company also plans windparks off the Cornish coast and in the North Sea, near Germany's coast.

Clinton critic accused by porn tycoon

ONE of President Clinton's fiercest critics has became the atest victim of Larry Flynt, the pornographer, who claimed he was a hypocrite for having an alleged affair and helping his wife to have an abortion.

Bob Barr, a congressman from Georgia, who had called for Mr Clinton to be impeached before anyone had even heard of Monica Lewinsky and is one of the Republican "managers" presenting the case against the President in the Senate, is a stern antiabortionist and proponent of

In the latest demonstration if the depths to which political if in Washington has sunk, a smirking Mr Flynt produced an affidavit from Mr Barr's former wife, claiming that he had paid for her to have an abortion and had been unfaith-

Gail Barr, who was Mr Barr's second wife, said she was coovinced that her husband had an affair with the woman who became his third wife while they were still liv-

ing together.

Mr Flynt produced transcripts of their divorce proceedings in which Mr Barr invoked a Georgia statute similar to the Fifth Amendment to avoid answering when asked he had committed adultery. The publisher said he was, therefore, a hypocrite for lam-basting Mr Clinton's evasiveness when he was questioned about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

Mrs Barr also said that her former husband did not oppose her decision to have an abortion, paid for the opera-tion and drove her to and from the clinic. In public, Mr Barr likens abortion to murder and has said that he would do everything possible to stop his present wife terminating a pregnancy, even if she had

> "To me that represents the ultimate form of hypocrisy and, in many ways, it is worse than not telling the truth under oath," Mr Flynt said. In a statement yesterday.

'Hypocrite' taunt hurled at House

Republican, writes Damian

Mr Barr declined to discuss his personal life, but said: "I have never perjured myself. I have never suggested, urged, forced or encouraged anyone to have an abortion."

Whitworth

Mr Flynt, who publishes Hustler and a string of other pornographic magazines, offered a reward of \$1 million (£615.000) for information about the infidelities of members of Congress. He says he is preparing to divulge new sleazy details as the trial of Mr Clinton in the Senate goes on Last year Bob Livingston, the incoming Speaker of the House, resigned as Mr Flynt's investigators were gathering information on his extramari-

The pornographer, who treated his right to print hardcore pornography as a First Amendment crusade and was immortalised for doing so in the film The People Versus Lar-ry Flynt, denied that he has had any co-operation in his muck-raking from the White

But Jun Nicholson, chairman of the Republican National Congress, demanded that President Clinton call off his "attack dogs" and "end the tac-tics of sexual terrorism and put your buddy, Larry Flynt, back in the plain brown paper wrapper where he belongs. Mr Barr and the 12 other

members of the House Judiciary Committee were busy yes-terday writing the opening. prosecution arguments which will begin when the trial starts

in earnest tomorrow.
The House has 24 hours to make its case and the White respond. Only then will the issue of whether or not to call-

Lewinsky, be debated.

Mr Chinton is accused of committing perjury by giving a false account of his relationship with Ms Lewinsky to the Grand Jury last summer and obstructing justice in his attempts to cover it up.

Joe Lockhart, the White House spokesman, vesterday

House spokesman, yesterday attacked the 105-page legal brief submitted by the House prosecutors in which they outlined how they would show that seemingly immocent events may well take on a sin-ister, or even criminal, conno-tation when observed in the context of the whole plot". Mr Lockhart said: "The hallmark of a weak case is hyperbole and overblown rhetoric. It reads like a cheap mystery."

A new poll vesterday by USA Today and CNN showed that 79 per cent of Americans thought Mr Clinton had committed perjury and 53 per cent believed he had obstructed justice. But majorities in both cases thought the crimes did not warrant his removal from office. His job approval rating remained high, at 67 per cent.

Bronwen Maddox, page 18

on price



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Sylvester Stallone's bayfront mansion in Miami which has been the subject of a \$27.5 million offer by lawyers acting on behalf of a dog named Gunther

Millionaires' Miami going to the dogs

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AGENTS for the actor Sylvester Stallone, who owns a luxurious waterfroot villa in one of Miami's plushest neighbour hoods, are considering a bizarre offer from the handlers of a German shepherd dog which inherited \$65 million (£40 million) from a

German countess. The dog — Gunther IV — in-herited the money through its father, Gunther III, which per-formed with a popular Ger-man disco dance troupe, the Gunther Group. His bark was so endearing that Countess Karlotta Liebenstein left him her fortune in 1992.

Gunther III also died. and the fortune — now estimated at \$200 million — passed to Gunther IV. The money is in the safekeeping of the Gunther Corp., an offshore bolding company in the Bahalawyers entrusted with looking after Guother IV's every need - including suitable accomodation and a bodyguard - as well as promoting music, sports and scientific research.

Our clients were very impressed by the elegance of the home, and are therefore evaluating the prospect of becoming active purchasers," they wrote in a letter to Wimbush-Riteway Realty, the Miami estate agent handling the sale of Mr Stallone's 11-acre property



in the Coconut Grove district. When he bought it in 1994 the \$8 million price tag was the highest ever paid for a south-ern Florida home.

Mr Stallone recently decided to sell the home after complaining that his privacy was being interrupted by tourists. The asking price is \$27.5 mil-lion (£17 million). Mr Stallone is reportedly moving closer to Hollywood — with his wife and their labrador, Flipper — where he has bought a \$10 million home in Beverly Hills.

But Gunther IV is facing competition for the house. A group of investors has already offered Mr Stallone \$24.7 million, and plans to build a luxury hotel on the site. However, local homeowners do not like the idea of their quiet streets becoming a commercial thoroughfare, and the hotel project may not be approved.

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Beijing crackdown irks Washington

Washington: America told China yesterday that it was "very disrbed" at the recent crackdown on Chinese dissidents and said the Asian nation would benefit if its people could take part freely in public life. The crackdown, aimed at advocates of a multiparty system, could spoil a visit to Washington in April by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, an American official added.

The meeting in Washington was part of the first human rights talks between the two countries for four years. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said: "We believe that it is very important for a country such as China, which has great responsibilities and is a hugely important country, to be able to benefit by the free participation of all its people." (Reuters).

Green film protest fails

Bangkok: A judge has refused to issue an injunction to stop the production of a Leonardo DiCaprio film in a national park conservation area on a southern Thai island. Environmentalists, residents and hotel and tour operators have opposed plans by Twen-th Century Fox to film *The Beach* on the Phi Phi Islands in Krabi province. The film crew has removed natural vegetation from Maya Beach in the islands and planted 93 coconut trees, which the protesters say will permanently damage the ecosystem. (AP)

Spirit of Stalin returns

Moscow: A grandson of Stalin has launched a movement aimed at ousting President Yelisin. Colonel Yevgeni Dzhugashvili yes-terday joined a group of leftists to found a new political bloc whose aims are the restoration of the Soviet Union and the removal of the post of President of Russia. Dzhugashvili was the name of Stalin before he succumbed to the Bolshevik fashion for pseudonyms. Colonel Dzhugashvili used one of his grandfa-ther's phrases to call Mr Yeltsin "an enemy of the people". (AFP)

Net losses for business

Singapore: The Internet will destroy many businesses and The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, will not rush into the increasingly expensive sector, the group's chairman and chief executive, Rupert Murdoch, said yesterday. While confident of the future of traditional media, he told a broadcast industry group: "The Internet will destroy more businesses than it will create in the sense that it will wipe out the middlemen." (Reuters)

Hindus burn church

Delhi: Hindu zealots attacked a church in western India just hours after Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, visited the area to try to halt a wave of violence against Christians. The church in the Dangs district of Gujarat state was set alight, Father Dominique Emmanuel of the Catholic Conference of Bishops said. Six churches and missionary schools in Gujarat were torched by Hindu extremists during the Christmas period. (AFP)

Fax of life

Perth: Australians besotted with their jobs rather than their partners have been urged to turn off their faxes and turn on their lovers. Young couples were being affected by Tins (Two Incomes, No Sex), Dr Denis Cherry, of the Perth Human Sexuality Centre, said." He advised couples fearing they were heading down the slippery Tins slope to escape on a romantic holiday. (AFP)



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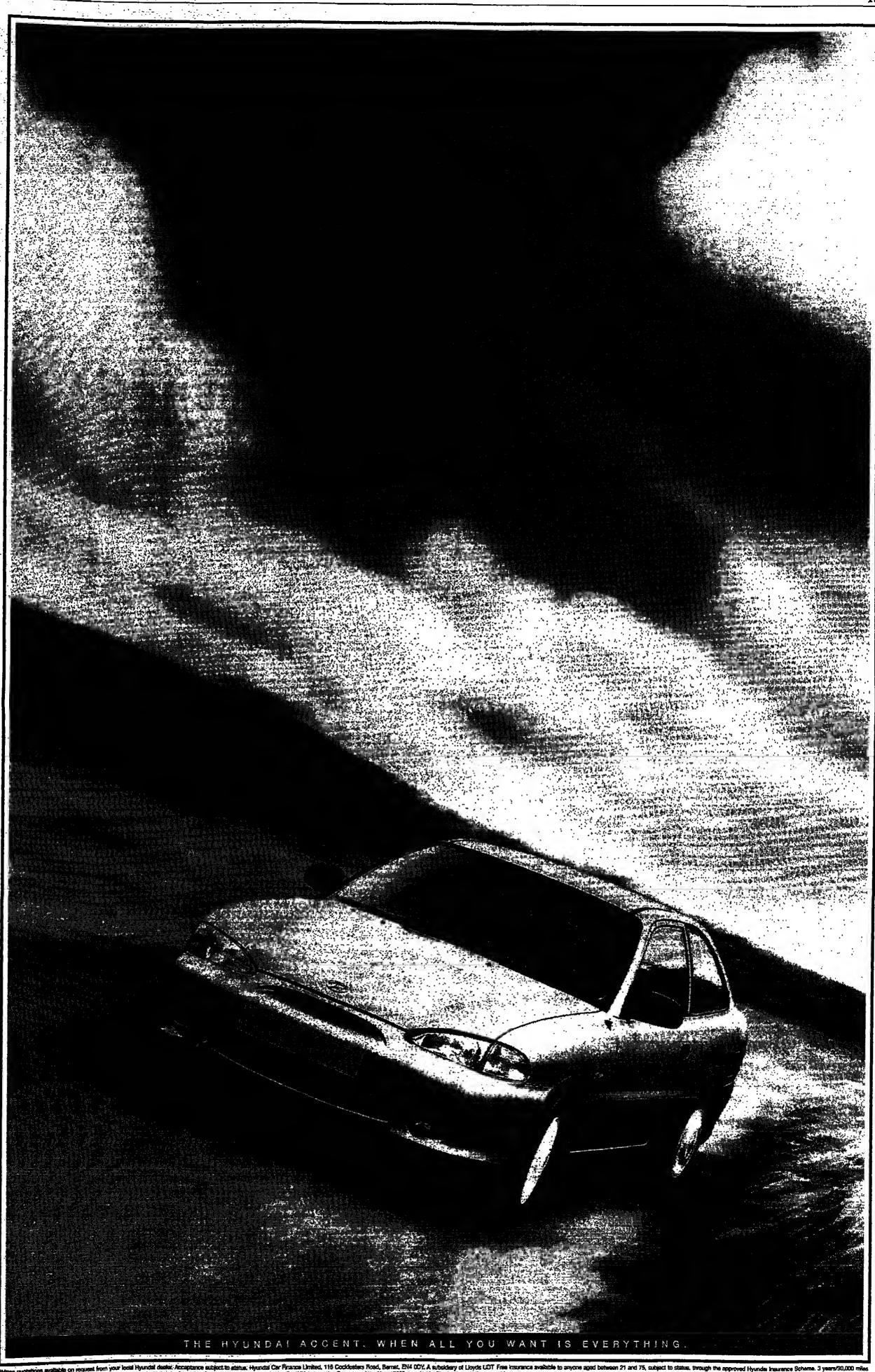
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Nation's natural wealth wasted

By MICHAEL DYNES

EVER since diamonds were discovered in Sierra Leone by the British Geological Survey io 1930, the industry has been cursed by an inability to prevent anyone from digging them out of the ground.

The country's diamonds are dispersed over such vast areas that it has been impossible for national authorities to prevent freelance operators from mining them for sale on the black market.

One of the world's great diamond producers has been virtually wiped out as a result, but the prospect of vast wealth continues to excite interest in the country's natural resources among legitimate and ille-

gitimate business interests. The Sierra Leone Selection Trust, a British firm. began commercial mining on a small scale in 1934. After it teamed up a few years later with De Beers, the global diamond giant, the industry grew rapidly. By the 1950s Sierra Leone was one of the world's most important sources of gem-quality diamonds.

But things sooo began to fall apart. The Sierra Leone Selection Trust couldo't control the source," Andy Lamont, a De Beers spokesman, said. Diamonds started appearing on the market from locals. As small operators got involved, the big firms lost control. That's the story of diamond mining

in Sierra Leone." Attempts were made to buy the illicitly mined diamonds, but it was impossible to stem the growing tide of freelance operators and prevent the loss of rev-Mr Lamont added.

Corruption, mismanage ment and greed destroyed Sierra Leooe's diamond industry, and deprived the Government of vast revenues. De Beers pulled out in 1985 because of the deteriorating political climate. Today the country produces 150,000 carats a year compared with 20 million from Botswana.

Freetown staff had 'a secret channel to Cook'

THE findings of the report by Sir Thomas Legg, QC, into the Sandline affair — which blamed Foreign Officials for failing to brief Robin Cook about allegedly illegal arms shipments by the British security company to the elected Freetown Government of President Kabbah last year --have been undermined. Investigadions by The Times have revealed that briefings were sent by the officials through secret German communications.

It appears that Peter Penfold. British High Commis-sioner to Sierra Leone, and other officials were given access to encoded German communications equipment to transmit details of the arms supplies. and activities by a handful of South African mercenaries fly-ing a helicopter in support of West African peacekeepers fighting rebels in the former British colony, with the approval of the German and British Governments and their

When the Sandline affair was exposed last year, the company had tabled a proposal to send more mercenaries to Sierra Leone to support West the British Government says that it did not know, it is quite simply not telling the truth. Not only were communications supplied by the Ger-mans, but these briefings would have ended up on the top of the relevant minister's papers in the morning in Bonn as well as London," said a Western intelligence source.

. Mr Cook and Tony Lloyd. the Foreign Office Minister responsible for Africa, told the Legg inquiry and parliamentary committees investigating the affair that they were not informed of support for the plans to send arms and mercenaries to Sierra Leone.

Mr Penfold was cridcised last year by Sir Thomas. former Permanent Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, for having failed to keep his masters in London fully informed. Sir Thomas's report also

said that the British diplomats working in Conakry in Guinea, in "exile" from Freetown, were unable to send secure messages back to London, and that this accounted for a break-



West African peacekeepers search a Sierra Leone civilian suspected of being a rebel in Freetown, where the battle to control the capital continues

line, even if they did not ap-

prove. It is absurd to, there-

explanation raised some amusement among British diplomats at the time, who pointed out that a Queen's Messenger carrying a diplomatic bag would have been perfectly

But use of the secure Ger-man communications channels not only shows the high level of clearance given to the backing for Sandline's negotiations, but also implies that the secret method of communication was kept from Sir Thomas and parliamentari-ans involved in the later

investigations.

The British were able to use the German channels whenever they wanted. This

went on for several weeks and had to have had clearance ar the highest levels.

"Even allies are reluctant to allow one another to use their equipment. This was a unique

fore, suggest that ministers in Bonn knew, but that Cook and company did not," said the Western agent.

When the Government says it did not know, it is not telling the truth?

European Union - who often share their intelligence were, at the very least, aware of what British diplomats

rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, was flown to neighbouring Guinea yesterday for talks about ending the fighting in Freetown, diplomats said:

Revolutionary United Front, had been flown to the Guinean capital with West African mediators and was in talks with the Foreign Ministers of Guinea. Sierra Leone, Togo and Ivory Coast Also there was Francis Okelo, a senior United Nations official, Mr. Sankoh's fighters cap-nured eastern and central dis-

is in negotiations." Ali Kama-

ra, Sierra Leone's Ambassador

tricts of Freetown on January 6. He has been detained for two years by President Kab-bah and his military backers - the Nigerian-led West African force Ecomog. (Reuters)



Penfold: Criticised for not

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Cape Muslims threaten to avenge death

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

BOTH the South African Government and Muslim groups moved rapidly yesterday to defuse tension after the death of Yusuf Jacobs, the protester hit in the head by a police plastic bullet during a demonstration against last week's visit

Earlier, Salie Abadah, head of security for a Muslim vigilante group, had threatened that it would "make South Africa ungovernable", should Mr Jacobs die. Given the group's violent record and the parlous state of public order in Cape Town's Muslim community — last year saw about 600 terrorist incidents, including the explosion of 70 pipe bombs — this threat was being taken seriously by the police.

Mr Jacobs was shot during a protest by a pro-Iraqi group in the Cape call-ing itself Muslims Against Global Oppression. Mr Abadah, of the vigilante group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), said yesterday that Mr Jacobs was also a member of Pagad, the first time a direct links between the two groups had been made. tween the two groups had been made. It seemed, however, that the Govern-

ment had struck a deal with Pagad. Azhar Cachalia, the Security Secretary and one of numerous Mus ANC Government, announced that President Mandela will set up an inquest into Mr Jacobs's death.

Pagad spokesmen, meanwhile, said that a planned protest march after Mr Jacobs's funeral had been cancelled, and announced that they wanted to sit down with "good policemen" to discuss

The police, for their part, continued to insist that they fired on the demonstrators only after they saw them reaching for guns from a passing vehicle. The police also announced that they believe links exist between a car bomb attack at Cape Town's Waterfront development, which injured three peo-ple on New Year's Day, and the bomb attack in August, also at the Water-front, which killed two people at a Planet Hollywood restaurant.

Earlier, there was a pipe-bomb attack on a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet in Cape Town. The chain is seen by Muslim extremists as a symbol of US consumer culture and it has told franchise-holders to step up security.

Most South Africans are bemused by the continuous rumble coming from Cape Town's 360,000-strong Muslim community and by the prominence which Islam has assumed in South Af-rica since 1994. Fewer than 2 per cent of the population are Muslim, but there are three Muslims in the Cabinet Among Africans there is much resentful talk of "Mandela's Indians" and a general expectation that Thabo Mbeki,

once he takes over as President, will move to cut back sharply their numbers in government...

Jakes Gerwel, the Cabinet Secretary, who is also the director-general of President Mandela's Office, is to travel to Libya to intercede with Colonel Gaddafi to surrender the two Lockerbie bomb suspects. The initiative, a direct result of Mr Blair's visit, seeks to exploit the special relationship between

Mr Mandela and Colonel Gadaffi. Ironically, the Government's links with Libya may also provide Pretoria with leverage in dealing with its Mus-lim extremists. The fact that the Cape Town bombings came so soon after the bombing of the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last August has led most to assume that the Cape Town ter-rorists are acting at the behest of anti-American groups in the Arab world. If so, few are better placed than Colonel Gaddafi to exercise a restraining hand.

Harare editor held over 'revolt' report

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

MILITARY police yesterday arrested the Editor of a Zimbabwean newspaper after it reported that the authorities had arrested 23 soldiers for urging their comrades to against President Mugabe

Mark Chavunduka, 34. Editor of The Standard, was still at Cranborne military bar-racks last night in the custody of the Army's special investigations branch. His lawyers were refused access. Clive Wilson. The Standard's proprietor, said an application for his release would be made to the High Court today. Military and secret police

also interrogated another jour-

nalist at the newspaper's offices yesterday. They threatened to use "other avenues of extracting information" when be refused to give them further

Earlier, Moven Mahachi, the Defence Minister, delivered an enraged attack on the country's independent press. He denounced as "treasonable" a series of critical reports about Zimbabwe's military operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo aimed at pre-venting President Kabila's overthrow by Tutsi rebels. Mr Mahachi The Standard's report of the 23 arrests.

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Jordan set to retire FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

Michael

MICHAEL JORDAN, by common consent the greatest player in the history of basket-ball, is expected to announce his retirement this week after a record-breaking career that drew millions to his sport and billions to his backers.

Jordan, 35, who led the Chicago Bulls to six national championship otles and earned more than \$60 million (£36 million) in the past two years, excluding endorsement deals, will hang up his trademark black boots rather than play out a basketball season truncated by a bitter dispute between management and players, officials said.

Bald, 6ft 6in tail, and unmatched in his athleticism and will to win, Jordan singlehandedly made basketball the most lucrative professional sport in America, pumping an estimated \$10 billion into the national economy over 13 seasons. Unlike many fellow stars, he provided the game with some of its most memorable moments without developing an агтодансе to match, shrugging off controversy about a costly gambling habit to become, in one poll, one of Americans' "most respected newsmakers along with Mother

Teresa, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King. Jordan averaged 31.5 points a game over the course of his career, making him the National Basketball Association's Most Valuable Player a record five times. Cliffhangers were his speciality. He snatched the winning points in the final seconds in 26 NBA games.

Simon Barnes, page 40

New skirmish in no-fly zone as Britain turns for help to Iran

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

AMID growing tension in the Gulf an American Fl6 fighter fired on an Iraqi radar site in the northern no-fly zone yester-day, the sixth skirmish since the end of Operation Desert Fox more than three weeks

The latest action came as William Cohen, the US Secretary of Defence, claimed that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's new refusal to recognise no-fly zones demonstrated that he was becoming increasingly 'frantic and agitated". In response to the deepening

crisis, a senior British official will today hold talks with leaders in Iran, which said it was working towards a peaceful so-lution. Derek Plumbley will be the most senior Foreign Office official to visit Iran since the Islamic Republic distanced itself from the farwa against Sal-man Rushdie last September.

"Iran is an important regional player and a valid interlocutor on Iraq," a Foreign Office spokesman said. Mr Plumbley, the Foreign Office director for the Middle East and North Africa, will also discuss other bilateral issues during his

Mr Plumbley's trip follows continued efforts by Iraq to improve relations with its former Gulf enemy. Iraq told a visiting Iranian envoy yesterday that it was keen to boost ties and formally invited Vice-President Hassan Habibi to Baghdad for talks.

The US Secretary of Defence, visiting Japan, said Saddam appeared to be increasingly cornered since the end of the cruise missile and bombing raids by America and Britain.

Mr Cohen claimed that the four days of attacks in December were "one of the most successful" military operations ever carried out and as a result Saddam was now "starting to act up".
"He is lashing out verbally.

rhetorically, against the Sau-dis, against the Egyptians, against the Kuwaitis," Mr Cohen said. He vowed that America would give no ground in enforcing the no-fly zone restrictions and warned that Saddam's forces would pay a penalty for continuing to attack or lock on to US and British aircraft with radar beams.

In yesterday's fracas, an F16 fired a missile at a radar site near the city of Mosul in north-em Iraq and returned safely to its base in Turkey. The American pilot had picked up a signal from an early-warning radar that was considered a threat

With tempers running high, America is boosting its air power over southern Iraq with eight additional Flos and four aerial tankers, bringing its aircraft in the region to 200. In addition, Kuwait has put part of its military on full, combatready alert in response to Iraqi "threats" to Gulf Arab states. Against this backdrop, Iran

has emerged as a potentially valuable regional mediator Hours before the Iranian envoy, Mohammed Reza Sadr. met senior Iraqi officials yesterday, Iran's Foreign Ministry chided Baghdad for apparently renewing its territorial claim to Kuwait. It added that Mr Sadr would visit "other regional countries" with a view to resolving the crisis through

مكدلس الإملى



Cohen: speaking of Iraq in Japan yesterday

diplomatic means. Tehran has condemned last month's allied airstrikes and frequently expresses sympathy for ordinary Iraqis, but it has also urged Baghdad to respect United Nations Security Council resolutions, particularly on disarma-

fran was on the receiving end of Iraqi chemical weapons attacks during their eight-year war. Iranian officials have also blamed Saddam for giving America the pretext to boost its military presence in the Gulf.

The Penragon, meanwhile, is claiming that damage caused by Operation Desert Fox was more severe than initially reported. Unconfirmed intelligence reports suggested that the raids had killed 600 to 1,600 members of Saddam's

to General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Earlier, senior American officers had deliberately avoided such ambiguous "body counts", a practice that contributed hugely to a credibility gap before the war in Vietnam was lost.

As evidence of anti-Saddam discord in the southern no-fly zone, the US State Department said opposition sources" had ascertained that summary executions of suspect military officers and dissident civilians had reached nearly 500 in the past two months. commanding general and sen-ior staff officers of the 11th Mechanised Division. But while Saddam may

seem increasingly isolated, so too are Britain and the US at the Security Council in wanting to maintain both military pressure and sanctions against Iraq. There are con-cerns in Washington that the three other permanent mem-bers - Russia, China and France - will find support for a softer approach towards iraq from four countries that have just become council members: Malaysia, Namibia, Can-

ada and the Netherlands. The political battle also involves the future, if any, for Unscom, the weapons inspectorate. Its chairman, Richard Butler, insisted that it was 'not dead" even though his inspectors have all been expelled by Baghdad and he has suspended flights by American U2 spy-

planes over Iraq.
The security search for a less intrusive role for Unscom could lead to the departure of Mr Butler, whose dismissal was again demanded by Russia.

Jerusalem hunt for serial killer

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahn, gave a warning yesterday that a would-be Jewish serial murderer had been in action again in Jerusalem after an Arab in his fifties was knifed near the ultra-Orthodox Jewish district of Mea Shearim. Mr Netanyahu said that the police were actively pursuing the assailant, who might have been responsible for eight previous stabbings since November 1997, two of them fatal and all following roughly the same pattern.

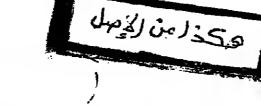
The latest attack came less than 24 hours after police had ordered extra security precautions around the Wailing Wall, Judaism's most sacred site, in reaction to threats of a grenade attack against Jewish worshippers by Islamic extremists.

Israel radio reported that the 57-year-old victim was stabbed near Mea Shearim at about 5.30am as he was on his way to work.

Last month an Arab man who was also on his way to work was stabbed with a knife whose markings led the police to suspect a Jewish extremist

"It looks like the same serial murderer that we are looking for. I still cannot say this definitively, but that is the way it appears." Mr Netanyahu said as the investigation continued.

Yair Yitzhaki, Jerusalem's police commander, cited the district, the time of the attack, and the single knife wound as elements that made the latest attack similar to the previous



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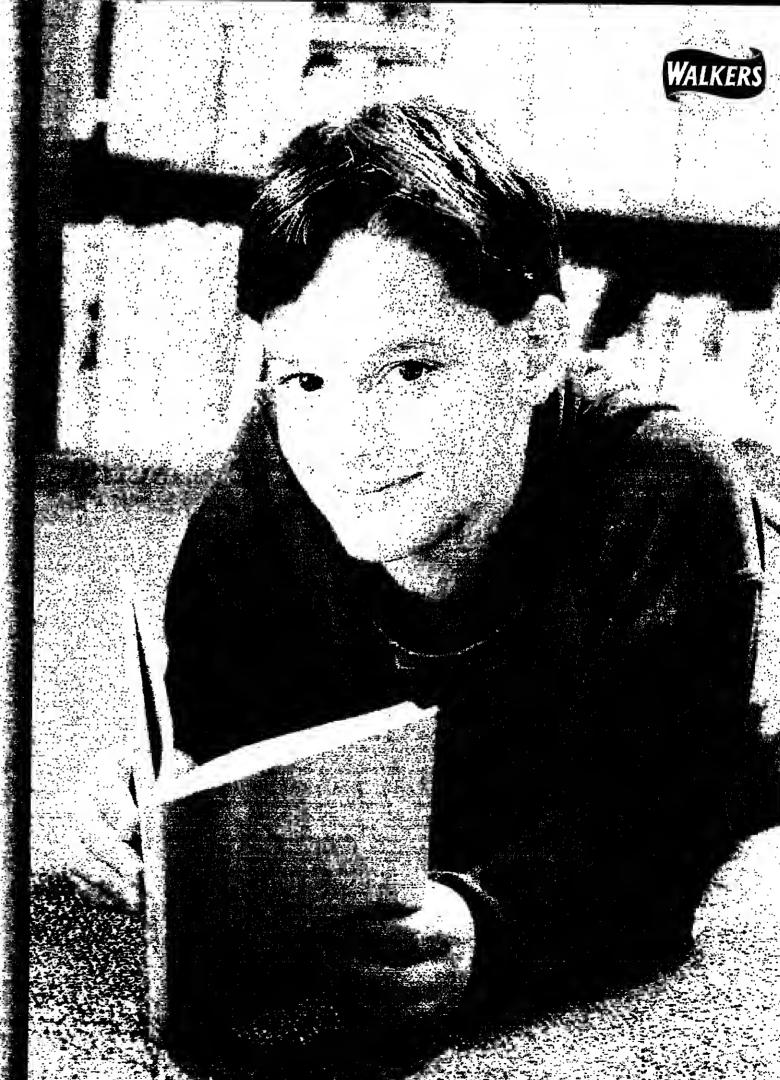
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CHANCINGIAMIS

What happens if the bugs take over?

The first speaker in our Scientists for the New Century lecture series explains how antibiotics are losing the war against deadly bacteria. Interview by Anjana Ahuja

doom appeared. With provocative titles such as The Coming Plague, they foresaw an apocalyptic future where superbugs would reign supreme with antibiotics powerless to

Some experts viewed these predictions as scaremongering. Others, including Dr Martin Westwell, a young scientist from Oxford University who has been studying the struc-ture of antibiotics, thought these nightmarish visions were disturbingly plausible. "In 1963, the Surgeon-General in America said it was time to close the book on infectious disease," Dr Westwell says. "But now we have Lords select committees discussing strategies to combat infections because drug-resistant bacteria is such

a massive problem. As Dr Westwell will reveal on January 27 at London's Royal Institution in the opening

everal years ago, a New Century series, spon-rash of books pro-nouncing medical that are resistant to all known antibiotics have begun to

> "In the late Eighties, it was shown that bacteria could gain resistance to Vancomycin, which is sometimes called the antibiotic of last resort," the 27-year-old chemist recalls. Then a few years later, one case popped up in Japan and two in America. There was nothing that doctors could do for them except give them lots of antibiotics in the hope that they might help the patient's immune system to recover."

The immune system of those patients managed to outwit the bacterial invaders and, fortunately, no more cases have been reported. But scientists know that it could be just a matter of time. Once an antibiotic is introduced, it typically takes only a few years for a bacterium to acquire resistance to it.

"It isn't overdramatic to say



Dr Martin Westwell: "If we go back to a time when antibiotics are useless, and people have to go into hospital because they have an infection; the NFIS will go under"

lypse," Dr Westwell says in his bugs get a foothold in hospitals, we are going to be defenceless in the war against infection. At the moment, large hos-pitals employ doctors and nurses to keep tabs on what is going on, to make sure the bugs don't take over. For example, if the virulent MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) bug is found, wards are closed and everyone is isolated until the infection is cleared. But smaller hospitals and nursing homes don't always have

such measures in place, so there is always a risk of bugs getting out. We could go over THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN *ුල 1799 - 1999* ලා the precipice at any time."
That. Dr Westwell says, would be an absolute disaster for the NHS. "The NHS was

stead of going into hospital," he explains.

We've just seen the flu crisis, which shows how stretched everything is. If we go back to a time when antibiotics are useless, and people have to go into hospital because they have an infection.

the NHS will go under."
However, there is hope on the horizon in the shape of LY333328, a compound found in the soils of Borneo which is being tested by the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company. It appears capable of exterminating the bugs that the most po-tent current antibiotics - Vancomycin included - cannot

Meanwhile, Dr Westwell, who holds a Glaxo junior research fellowship in biological medicine from their doctor in- design molecules that can com- the Biological and Research isn't enough money to go more intellectual freedom. He body."

bat the superbugs. To design such drugs though, experts must deduce exactly how antibiotics extinguish harmful bac-teria. Yet, despite the importance of these drugs, funda-mental knowledge of how they go about their business is surprisingly hazy.

his is one reason why Or Westwell accepted the fellowship at Oxford rather than a position at Harvard University. He sets his own research agenda, which allows him much greater independence. The alternatives are working under the guidance of a senior scientist and so restricting his area of study, or seeking funding from a government re-search organisation — such as

Sciences Council - which rarely allocates money for very basic science.

Moreover, it is almost impossible for relative novices with no track record to obtain money. The usual practice is. for a young scientist to apply in the name of a senior member of a department; sadly, resulting success is not always credited to the right person.

Like many other talented young researchers trying to make a name for themselves. Dr Westwell finds the system frustrating: "I have no individual track record, so I would find it hard to get funding, but bow do you get a track record in the first place if nobody funds you?"

Promise is no guarantee. Dr Westwell says he has seen toparound. The result, he says, is a "do or die" culture in the higher echelons of science: 'To survive, you really have to be at the top of your field:"

He is making a sacrifice for his independence - although bearing the prestigious Glaxo name, his fellowship pays less than a standard research position. These jobs are modestly remunerated: a 25-year-old researcher who has just attained. a PhD can expect a starting salary at a university of about £16,000.

Dr. Westwell's wife Valerie works as a mathematics teacher to boost the family income (they have a one-year-old son. Charlie). Supporting a family and paying a mortgage would be no problem on an industry salary, he says, but he will saved by antibiotics because and medicinal sciences, is one the Engineering and Physical rated research proposals fall stick with universities because doesn't have to be highfaluting people could just go and get of many scientists who hope to Research Sciences Council or by the wayside because there an academic career offers. It should be accessible to every

within five years and top up his salary by taking commercial advantage of his research. The Times's sponsorship of the Scientists for the New Century lectures reflects growing concerns that, even though they conduct work that could have an enormous impact on our lives, the contributions of young scientists are not ai-

ways recognised. This is also

reflected in their social status. "To be considered a cultured person, you have to know about the arts and about music and books," Dr West well says. "I think that to be a fully rounded person, you should be able to read science articles in the newspaper and be able to talk about it, have an opinion on it. Science doesn't have to be highfalutin.

SCIENTISTS FOR THE NEW CENTURY

In the first of a new series of lectures starting on Wednesday January 27, Dr Martin Westwell, a young chemist from Oxford University, will describe the war against superbugs. As well as explaining how antibiotics work, he will discuss the frightening prospect that, for the first time in the history of medicine, we have no weapons with which to fight the most deadly infections.

The talk will be introduced by Professor Susan Greenfield, director of the Royal Institution. There will be the opportunity for questions from the

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS.

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PRINT NAME

Shedding new light on an eye disease

or the first time a treatment has been developed that can slow down or halt the progress of macular degeneration, the most common cause of blindness in the elderly. The condition affects 16,000 people a year in Britain, and Simon Harding, consultant ophthalmic surgeon at St Paul's Eye Unit of the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, says that the new treatment will offer "some significant benefit" to a third of new cases.

It uses photodynamic therapy in which a drug injected into the body is activated when it reaches the site of a disease by shining light on it. The Liverpool unit has been part of a study of 609 patients at 22 centres in America

are a third more likely to retain stable or improved vision than those treated with a placebo. Macular degeneration affects about a tenth of people over the age of 65. In its most severe, wet" form, it causes rapid deterioration of vision and most sufferers are registered blind within two years. Some vision survives, but it becomes impossible to read, drive or warch TV. Some patients can be helped by laser treat-ments, but the great majority cannot. The new treatment has been developed by QLT Photo-therapeutics, of Vancouver. Canada, and Ciba

Vision Corporation, a division of the Novartis

drug giant, which have applied for licences in

America, Europe and Canada. It helps only newly diagnosed cases, not those who have

already lost vision. Patients are first injected

and Europe, from which the first year's results

have emerged. They show that treated patients

with a light-sensitive dye, called Visudyne, by infusing it into a vein. The process takes ten minutes, and then patients wait a further five minutes for the dye to be picked up by molecules in the blood called lipoproteins and circulated throughout the body. The second stage involves shining a laser into the eye to activate SCIENCE the dye. The cause of the wet form

BRIEFING Nigel Hawkes

of macular degeneration is the proliferation of new blood vessels in the retina, the light-sensitive part of the eye. Fluid leaking from these

vessels robs the eye of its precise vision. The effect of shining red light into the eye is to activate the dye, producing highly reactive oxygen radicals which seal off the blood vessels, preventing leakage and damage. The laser does not produce any hear, so does not damage other parts of the retina. Side-effects are virtually non-existent, says Mr Harding — only a few cases of back pain and tenderness at the site of.

injection. After treatment the patients have to wear dark glasses for 24 hours. The results show that in 61.4 per cent of those treated with Visudyne, vision was stable or improved, compared with 45.9 per cent of those treated with dummy injections. This means that the treated group were 34 per cent more likely to retain their vision. This may not seem a huge difference, but if you or I had the condition we would jump at it." says Mr Harding. He expects the treatment to become widely available within the next year, subject to licensing approval, and is organising courses at Liverpool to train ophthalmic surgeons to do it. | diagnoses? A team led by Dr

WHEREVER man has gone. have hitched a ride. have

Now geneticists genes from rats living on the Polynesian islands to try to trace the history of humanmigration there Linguistic and archaeological evidence has already provided strong hints of how human beings spread through the region 3,500 years ago. But confirming this by studying buman DNA is a problem because indigenous populations fell vic-

tim to European diseases at

the end of the 19th century.

That makes it difficult to be sure that DNA from modern

Rats show glimpse of the past

Polynesians is representative of the original population.

Rais suffered no such setbacks, so Dr Lisa Matisoo-Smith, at the University of Aukland, looked at them. She studied a section of mitochondrial DNA, the sort that is passed down the maternal line unchanged and mutates at a steady rate, providing an evolutionary clock. Rat DNA mutates more quickly than buman DNA, so there has been

plenty of time for separate lineages to develop in Polynesia. The results, reports Science Now, confirm earlier suggestions that the Southern Cook and Society Islands formed the focus from which migration to other islands began This is clear evidence that people were moving about quite a lot," she says. An excep-

tion is found on Chatham Island, whose rats belong to a single related group, suggest-ing that this island was isolated from the rest. . Dr Patrick Kirch, an anthropologist from the University

of California at Berkeley.

says: "It's nice to have confir-

mation of the work in archae-

ology and linguistics." TB or not TB, that is a question answered



THE creation of the new International Centre for Life in New-castle has provided an oppor-

tuntity for investigating death. The centre is being built on the site of the old Newcastle infirmary, immortalised in the Geordie anthem-Blaydon Races, where many victims of tuberculosis were

Infirmary records suggest that 27.1 per cent of those who died there and were interred in the burial ground between: 1753 and 1845 suffered from

But how reliable were the

Angela Gernaey and Dr David Minnikin, of the University of Newcastle, examined bones from 210 skeletons which were recovered during excavation for the new foundations and tested them for mycobic acids — long-chain lipids that are "markers" of TB infection. which is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis. They wore gloves and masks in case any of the bacteria were still infec-

The team reports in Internet Archaeology — an online journal to be found at http://www.intarch.ac.uk that 24 per cent of the ribs from the burial ground tested positive for mycolic acid, a nice corroboration of the

records. DNA has also been used to detect TB in ancient bones, but the team believes that mycolic acid may be a more reliable marker. Since tuberculosis is strongly linked to poverty, the test may also be useful for assessing how wealthy, and how well-fed, our ancestors really were.





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Dig that dancing queen? She's about to give birth

grid, our matronly Scandinavian birthing instructor, "this" weekend course is specially designed for Manhattan couples with impossible schedules. I will try to squeeze in what would normally take a whole week of evening classes." She passes round badges with our first names filled our and a blank space in which she instructs us to write in our hobbies, "so you can get to know each other over lunch". Peter fills out our badges. "What shall I say your hobby is?" he asks. "Oh, I don't know. I don't really have a hobby." I say, irritably. He

to us carnestly writes down "running marathons". "Now let's have some dancing," shouts Sigrid, hunching over her boombox. "I am Swedish, so we will have Abba."The stuffy room on the lith lloor of St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital is soon resonating to You can dance! You can jive/Having the time

writes "reading pregnancy manuals". On his own badge

he writes "watching televi-sion". The woman sitting next

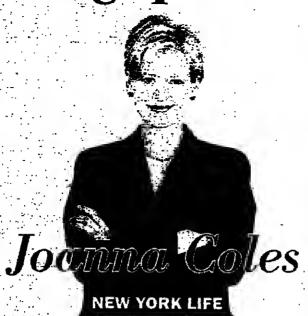
of your life/See that girl/ Watch that scene/Digging the dancing queen ...

"Up. up." shouts Sigrid, pulling us out of our chairs to. lumber around the room, feeling ludicrous and not digging the dancing queen one bit.
"Splendid, let's get the circulation going." She swings her

arms like a Canadian Air Force instructor. It is 9.30am and I am already birth classed-out. You cannot have a baby in Man-hattan without being bullied

into attending dozens of these classes. Maternity tours, interviews with obstetricians, prenatal and maternal fitness: classes, I have obediently attended them all. We even spent one Friday evening at a
St Luke's film night, watching
programmes of births going
wrong to prepare us for the possibility of a Caesarean section. And now one of our precious weekends is to be spent on a weekend crammer course with four pregnant couples whom we have never met and a fierce Swedish matron. in a ginger panisuit.

To be fair, the four other



schedules" look similarly fed up. One of the putative fathers, Bill, a biochemist (hobby: sports) has already positioned himself at the back of the group so he can secretly tune in to the football play-

offs on his Walkman, much to his wife's embarrassment. "I normally wear a button saying Birth is Normal, but this suit has just been drycleaned so I forgot," announces Sigrid. "Banana, anyone?"

As Abba fades out, she

divides us into two groups by gender and asks us to construct lists of best and worst things about having a child. Not being able to tie your shoes up." suggests Anna-Marie, the marathon runner

هری: رمن رایم

and also, it turns out, a chem-Pressure at work," says Susan grimly. "I'm an attorney, I'm due in two weeks, I'm in the office by 9am and 1'm not home until 8pm." She looks grey with exhaustion. "I

get four weeks paid maternity

leave and that's considered

good, for a lawyer." The worst list fills up quickly: pain, lack of freedom, financial worries, family tensions. But apart from the baby itself, we have few sug-gestions for the best list. "Well, it stops you being so self-obsessed." I offer finally.

"But is that a good thing, I wonder?" asks the lawyer. After ten minutes the men shuffle back in and, under Sigrid's instruction, we compare lists. Although our worst bsts are almost identical, the men's best list is much more optimistic and includes "eve-

rything changes; becoming a family: having a new playmate: getting to watch cartoons; cuddling; genetic immortality". Sigrid, a veteran of 30 years' teaching, seems oriefly nonplussed at this dis-parity. "Hrmm, professional

York find the birth experience more difficult because they've been used kidding to being in control for so long," she sighs, finally. I want my Thirty years ago, when she ar-

rived here armed with her master's in the ry from Sweden. she was appalled parking lot to discover that women in labour

had a general anaestheoc and woke up two days later to discover they had a baby. "As a result, we lost a generation of birthing stories. Now, what is the expectation of women giv-ing birth in America today?"

"Pain?" winces the lawyer. "Right," cries Sigrid. "You

have such terrible pain that you are going to need a lot of drugs to get through it." Are you kidding? I want

the epidural in the parking lot," says Anna-Marie. Well in Europe — in Brisain, for example." Sigrid continues, and mc. "people don't tell each oth-

er such awful pain

stories." Resisting

Bill, who is fid-

dling with his Walkman. Have

you got your nurs-

ery sorted out yet?" I ask, aware that his baby is

epidural

weeks. "Well, we have moved some books," he says, bleakly.

Sunday: The second morning of our course takes on the character of a drama workshop as Sigrid assures us that the fastest way to learn is through role play. This morntion. I am appointed senior anaestherist and spend the next ten minutes pretending while Peter, playing the surgeon, pretends to slice into the abdomen of Anna-Marie, the patient. Sigrid assures us that the easiest way to avoid being overwhelmed by a C-section is to learn all about it

"Hey, it's just like ER," says Bill, referring to last week's episode in which a man drove to the hospital but managed to cause a fatal car accident on the way and ended up being dragged away by police just before his wife gave birth. "Oh God," cries Sigrid crossly. "I've been a consultani io all ihose damn shows and they drive me nuts, I tell you. You always see the birthing mother screaming and groaning and carrying on like bloody murder. They have to do that to make it exciting, for the drama, right? But that's not the true experience," she assures us. "Remember, birth

Just another upper class junkie.

The Marquess of Bristol, Britain's most notorious drug user, was not unique. Heroin is a powerful lure to those who seem to have everything, says former addict Sean Thomas

Frederick John Hervey, the 7th Marquess notorious heroin addict, who Ladbroke Grove and you will was found dead in his home at see them: moneyed junkies the weekend, must have seemed full of almost uniquely ries, estates and inheritances, sad phrases. Here was the on class A drugs. narismatic" heir to a "beauti generous" aristocrat possessed of an "arrogant and dashing charm who nonethe: less squandered his "immense. fortune" on "drugs, lavish parties, cars, helicopters and yachts before dying a pathetic" semi-cripple at 44.

To anyone who has been a

heroin addict, these facts and phrases are not uniquely sad. They are, on the contrary, predictable and familiar. The to locate Daddy to arrange an-

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orang-utans in Borneo, join a Zulu tribe for lanch in:

week's obituaries of Notting Hill, Mayfair, Chel-Frederick John Her- sea and beyond are full of tragic cases like Johnny Hervey. Walk down the King's Road or wasting trust funds and lega-

Some are genuinely aristoful Suffolk estate", a "highly cratic (like the Marquess of Blandford), some merely rich: some of them have famous parents (like the late Olivia Channon), some are infamous themselves. Many have Johnny Hervey's arrogant and dashing charm", all lead desperately limited, desperately repetitive lives - mostly spent sitting by the phone in squalid flats waiting for their dealers to return their calls, or trying

or most people, this more bohemian purlieus of other loan so as to afford the next quarter of an ounce.

I well know this type, the up-

per-class junkie, because for several years I was also a heroin addict in London and I ran into more than a few of them. It is impossible not to. Central London's hard drug scene (and by hard drugs I mean, marily, cocaine and heroin is like a small town within a town, a hidden and incestuous village, a tightly knit network of dealers, contacts, clinics and "well-known addresses".

The drugs underworld is also surprisingly egalitarian: the need for drugs is a great equaliser. Thus it is possible for the crackhead from Hoxton to use the same dealer as the junked-up ambassador's daughter from Kensington, or the poor little rich coke-snorter from Belgravia to end up sharing a needle with the homeless Glaswegian car thief.

I might have been a fairly ordinary, middle-class addict but I think I once saw Johnny Hervey doing coke in a smoky basement flat in Fulham; I can't be sure because I was too stoned. I do know that I have burned into the Blandfords and Channons of this underworld. I have stared blankly across the same glass-topped tables. I have used the same rolled-up £20 notes to sniff the same "China white". I have sat waiting for the same courier to deliver the same cocaine in the

same Hampstead penthouses. Usually the glass-topped ta-bles and Hampstead penthous-es were theirs. Upper-class junkies are nothing if not highly generous" and hospitable. They hate to feel alone in their vice, and doing heroin can be the most desperately bleak, sad, godless, solitary existence imaginable.

Thy, then with all I their chances opportuniand ties, with the best educations and circumstances that money can buy, do so many rich and well-born people fall prey to hard drug addiction? It is easy to understand the appeal of a powerful analgesic such as heroin to someone stuck on the seventh floor of an inner city tower block. It is easy to appreciate how you might want to numb your mind and senses if all you could see ahead of you was another week on the dole. But why would an Eton-educated millionaire, heir to a Caribbean villa and a castle in

Scotland, want to do the same? The answer is that the two ends of the social spectrum share one curse: unemployment. People who are rich already have little to do except to make more money. Second (and third, and fourth, and fifth) generation rich people have even less to do: their money and status are taken for granted. Ennui and boredom are therefore the most feared



Shooting up: "Weeks pass and all you have done is to repeat the cycle of the addict's life -- score, consume, get stoned"

not need a job, who would nev-er conceive of demeaning dim to do anything serious about it - like become a sol-

enemies of the poor little rich girl or boy. And you can only have so many "cars, helicop-ters and yachts" before even cars and helicopters and yachts start to pall.

Which is where heroin comes in. As anyone who has tried the drug will know, heroin is a sovereign remedy for taedium vitae. On heroin, ome ceases to exercise its grip. Hours, days, lives can fly by and all you have done is to sit in your flat and dribble. Weeks can pass and all you have done is to repeat the endless but somehow comforting cycle of the drug addict's life: score, consume, get stoned, score, consume, get stoned. For people with no job, who do

themselves with something as common as a job, heroin addiction is a job. It gives shape and purpose to otherwise shape-

s, purposeless lives. The second reason that I believe heroin appeals to the rich, noble and leisured is its dangerous "glamour", its subversive image. For those stu-pid enough, like me, to try heroin in the first place, it exercises an allure because it is seen as somehow chic, as intriguingly nihilistic, as amusingly antisocial and transgressive. And it's so easy. If you want people to see you as cool and cynical, as sophisocated and daring, but you are too lazy or

The Marquess of Bristol, heroin addict, pictured in 1996

dier, or train to be an artist how much easier simply to take heroin.

This spurious attraction heroin as a short cut to' ness" is assisted by the that the drug reinforces th dict's self-esteem, by par-ing any self-critical fact that might lurk in the psy Thus the painfully ano junkie sees herself as fashi bly thin: the desperately ing addict sees himself

he upper-class ju might seem a r ern phenome but there are his cal parallels. Consider the session with duelling in 18th and 19th centuries. was another dangerous, p bly fatal, certainly pointles tivity. Here was another crously nihilistic pursuit demned by polite society but dulged in certain uppercircles. Like heroin, due had glamour: like heroin, lieved the awful boredon the leisured life. The Fro toffs of Les Liaisons I gereuses would, these day smoking freebase in Cado Square instead of slaughte each other with sabres. Lest I seem to be glam

ing heroin myself, however should add that there is big difference between the upper-class vices. When century aristos were not i dering each other at da they were running the w and discovering vaccines writing Don Juan. When n ern upper-crust junkies not doing junk, all they are ing is trying to find more so they can do more inn they don't have to go out find any more junk for while. As the wretched M quess of Bristol would doubt attest if only he had chance, cocaine and her are, in truth, about as glamor ous as meths. Only more expensive. And more moronic.

THE FACTS

is normal. Write it down.

Birth is normal."

■ USERS agree that heroin is seductive, pernicious and now the most fashionable of all the so-called recreational drugs with the Diamorphine, to give the killer its clinical name, gives a sense of extraordinary wellbeing and security before relentlessly destroying every victim too weak to quit.

■ TODAY the drug is easily available in every city and town in the country. And gram it is a third cheaper than its class A rival, cocaine.

■ THE drug can be snorted, injected into veins or smoked - "chasing the dragon". Addiction is as inevitable as death and taxes.

MAIN producers of the opium poppy, from which heroin is produced, include Turkey. Mexico, Iran and Lebanon. But the big fields are in the socalled Golden Triangle running from Laos through Cambodia and Burma.

■ THE hazards of heroin use are appalling: appetile loss, convulsions, vomiting, loss of bowel control, sleeplessness, rotting teeth. impotence in men, infertility in women, and death.

Extant former users include Rolling Slones Keith Richards and Charlie Watts, Eric Clapton, Jamie Blandford, Lou Reed and several supermodels who cannol be named for legal reasons.

Among those who paid the ultimate price: jazzmen Char-lie Parker and Miles Davis: Jim Morrison of The Doors: Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols.

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Olé for the tangoing President

ike him or not, you have to admit that President Clinton is amazing. Judged on resilience, he beats all other politicians in the United States hands down.

On Monday night, he led a tango around the White House floor after the state banquet for President Menem of Argentina, wriggling and swooping with a huge grin on his face Earlier, he had bounced round the Detroit Motor Show, telling company - to nervous laughs that his beloved first car, a Mustang, did not have very

good brakes. On more serious ground, he is firmly set on delivering his State of the Union speech on Tuesday, a chance to remind the American people that the state of the union is indeed great. The economy is barely slowing, the Dow Jones is back to its high points, the dollar is rising against the

new euro. Behind the scenes, his Il-strong legal team nas launched a ferocious defence to the charges against him, denying that he committed perjury or obstruction of jus-tice, or that he has done anything to deserve being thrown out of of office.

It is a genuinely impressive display. Mr Clinton may have no self-restraint, but he is undeniably tough. His response, when attacked, is to keep going. It is at least one of the qualities you might want in a leader. It is not surprising that the many Americans who still like, or tolerate, Mr Clinton are so reluctant to see

him thrown out. Contrast that with the Senate's stuffy hamfistedness this week, as it found itself finally in the spotlight. Of the many admirable features of the US Constitution, one of the greatest is the inclusion of a formal procedure for deciding whether the Pres-

ident should be sacked. But as the process is playing out now in Washington, it risks becoming a farce. The Capitol, rising from its snowcovered hill against a dark blue sky, is a backdrop against which any politician looks like a Founding Father. And don't they know it? Senators — who now refer to themselves as the President's jurors - have stood in front of the nation's television cameras in belowfreezing temperatures for 20 minutes on end. They have perfected the look: a herringbone overcoat, perhaps with velvet collar, a woollen scarf, under a cap of pure white hair

of the kind Washington does so well. The faces are timeless and could grace a banknote or coin from any century. The words, though, are instantly perishable in their ponderous search for importance. In a town where politicians speak as if testing each phrase for inscription on their own memorial, scores have declaimed: "We are on trial, in how we conduct ourselves, not just the President." Again and again, we have heard them recite George Washington's notion that the Senate is the saucer in which legislation is poured to be cooled, after being heated in the boiling passions of the House. For

extra historical weight, dozens

have invoked the Senate's

Roman predecessor. The taste

for classical references pro-

voked gentle satire even from

the sober Washington Post,

which teased Democrat Rob-

ert Byrd for mentioning Plu-

tarch, Aeschylus, Solon, Hero-dotus, Thucydides, Polybius and Xenophon within the space of 80 minutes, but apparently being unsure of Monica Lewinsky's name.

The best antidote to the Senate this week was to walk the frozen mile down the Mall to the new monument to FDR. Spread over a couple of acres, the craggy building blocks are inscribed with dozens of his genuinely memorable speeches. from "I hate war" to Demoralisation caused by vast unemployment is our greatest extravagance".

But the memorial is also a reminder that the crises he faced deserved that language. The Senate's problem is that its subject does not warrant grandeur. The trial comes down to a debate about whether the President fied when he said he did not touch Ms Lewinsky's genitals, and whether it matters if he did.

Part of this week's pomposity stems from senators' frustration. You can have a sliver of sympathy. They have been elected after campaigns of numbing expense to what they have been told are among the most prestigious positions in national life. Chosen for six years, they pride themselves on being more "statesmanlike" than House representatives, elected for two-year terms. But for the past four years, since Newt Gingrich's 1994 Republican Revolution.

the television screens have been filled with House members, unruly younger siblings noisily seizing hold of the legislative agenda. The Sen-

ite's main distinction has been to cool any reforms to the point of freez-ing. It has initiated some minor legisla-tion, but has blocked scores of judicial, administrative and ambas-

sadorial nominations from the White House, grotesquely undermin-Maddox ing the Administration. It also helped to squash attempts

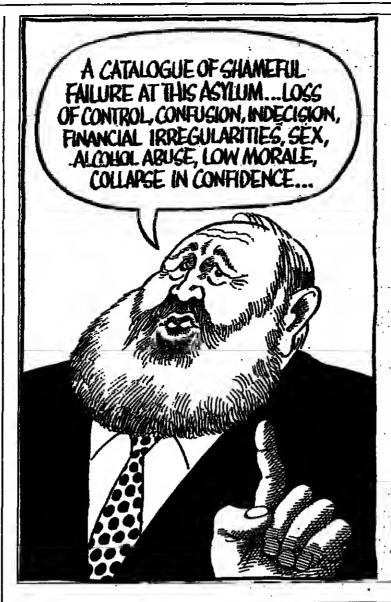
at campaign finance reform. Against that record, we can see what is going to happen.
The Senate will have the chance after the opening statements to throw out the whole matter. It is unlikely to take it. given how fond its members seem of the attention. So it will have a trial of sorts - longer by months if it calls witnesses.

7 hile that process continues, there remains a tiny chance that public opinion will finally swing against Mr Clinton, and that two thirds of senators will find in themselves a need to expel him from office. But it is much more likely that public opinion will stay where it has throughout the saga: firmly against Mr Clinton's early exit. It is then hard to imagine the Senate throwing him out. More likely, it will arrive many weeks from now at a formal expression of censure, the position that

many senators already hold. Many people are under-standably uneasy at the image of the happily tangoing President, shrugging off all the charges against him. But the public is still right in its unchanging view that his behaviour does not warrant his removal from office. Much of the Senate appears to agree. If it wants to earn the historical compliments it has showered on itself, it should throw

comment@the-times.co.uk

out the trial next week.





Thatcher's fifth term

fter the Project and the Launch comes the Relaunch. You move forward or you die. This week the Blair Government staged a bizarre ministerial floorshow, ostensibly to divert attention from the pre-Christmas resignations. The relaunch was long planned as a mid-term boost to the Cabinet's image, but the season-al bloodletting gave it a sensational

overture. Relaunches are for connoisseurs, The shrewd general always awaits the second offensive. The wise executive delays his move to head the rescue team. Never buy the prototype, always the redesign. Now that the Government is entering its stride, we have seen the back of those who stood forward in 1997, of the Mandelsons, Robinsons, Whelans and Drapers. They passed muster in the trenches, but not at the château HQ. It took Harold Wilson two years to be rid of the human impedimenta of Opposition, and Margaret Thatcher three years. Tony Blair is putting his past behind him with impressive speed.

Out too has gone the old spin, of community, fairness and decentralism. In their place appears the phraseology of power. The relaunch is said to be about modernisation, discipline and leadership, especially leadership. In a speech this week, Gordon Brown eulogised Mr Blair in terms reminiscent of a Maoist acolyte. A stream of other speeches gushes from Downing Street's dev-il's kitchen, vetted for political correctness. I have read them. They claim that the new, non-squabble Cabinet has set itself to "deliver on its election promises ... push foward with modernising Britain ... and deliver clear leadership at home and abroad". These speeches are awful. Mr Blair makes John Major seem a Cicero and Mrs Thatcher a veritable Demosthenes. I defy anyone to

distil novelty from such waffle. But nothing in politics should be taken at face value. The key to this week's Blair relaunch is the lack of anything new to say. And that lack is due to nothing of substance having been launched in the first place. This week's vacuity is embar-rassing only to those who misunderstood the original project. It was, as the trickle of Blairite memoirs attest. simply to win power. Now that power is won, the project is to keep it. The essence of Blairism, as the bard said, "gives to airy nothing but a local habitation and a name".

One of the abiding jokes of British politics is that defeating Mr Major in 1997 required of Mr Blair and his The world according to Blair is an eerily familiar place, far from Liberty Hall

team superhuman skills of political genius. Another is that this victory instigated a revolution to rank with the fall of the Bastille and the St Petersburg uprising. The true achievement of the Blair team more properly the Kinnock-Smith-Blair continuum - was more modest. It was to crush the Labour Left. After that, an ape could have beaten the Tories in 1997. No less hilarious is the concept of revolution. There is hardly an action taken

by the Government over the past 18 months that would not have emerged from Whitehall had the moon changed and Mr Major scrambled back to Downing Street. This week has

seen neo-Thatcherism rampant. The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, continpredecessor. Michael Howard, seem a wet liberal. Yesterday he ended Labour's opposition to "threestrikes" mandatory sentencing, and extended the invasion of judicial discre-

tion to property crime. He expects to add a further 4,000 young people to Britain's overloaded prisons. Liberalism on crime is now a defunct ideology. The same is true of education. David Blunkett is reimposing Victorian payment by examination results on teachers. At the weekend he proposed privatising local authorities, an innovation at which even the Tories had balked. His edicts on homework, family reading, truancy and league tables would come well from a Wackford

At Health, Frank Dobson is hoist on his party's own petard. In Opposition Labour treated health politics as an exercise in statistical terrorism. Mr Dobson is now condemned to death by a thousand waiting lists. When he demands a cut in lists, people die for emergency beds. When he offers more money to nurses, he loses money for drugs. He is another Virginia Bottomley: those who seek credit for everything

are blamed for everything. Over at Social Security, the new regime may or may not clean the Augean stables left by the Tories. One thing is certain, life is going to get tougher for claimants, not easier. Workfare. like pensions reform, are mainstream Thatcherite policies that the Tories never had the guts to implement. The same is true of legal aid, Tube privatisation and the sale of air traffic control. There is not a drop of "social-ism" to any of this.

Defence and overseas are no different. The Government has kept the Tory nuclear submarines, the Eurofighter project and proposed a new generation of aircraft carriers. In foreign affairs Labour is as tied to the ca after the Cold Thatcher (more excusably) during it. In Iraq and Kosovo, Mr Blair loves his role as bombardierin-chief to the White House. In Europe he began, like Mr Major, to walk tall at its heart and then found events mov-

ing him briskly to

the periphery. Not a summit passes without an attack of malaise Anglaise Nothing has changed. Put this to the more thoughtful denizens of Downing Street and they fall back mournfully on constitutional reform. They are right. Scottish devolution would not have been a Tory measure in its present, radical form, though I am con-vinced some assembly would by now have been conceded. But then I am not sure Labour today would have conceded what was granted so promptly after the last general election. The evidence of the London mayoralty and John Prescott's White Papers on transport and local democracy is that the decentralist enthusiasm of 1997 has all but

depicts the new mayor as a subagent of the Secretary of State for

nd those were simple

vanished from "the relaunch". The

London Bill now before Parliament

Hurrah in a perverse way, this is what the 1997 electors appear to have wanted. That was why only 43 per cent of them voted Labour. They booed Mr Major off stage, but not his policies. Whatever the Blairites may like to claim, the 1997 election was precisely to change personali-ties not policies. Mr. Blair has recognised this. He has kept taxes down and pandered to Middle England in everything from education, transport and law and order, to hunting and duty-free shopping. .

Id Labour is not the only casualty of this phenomenon. So too is old Liberal and old Tory. The Third Way was supposedly between Left and Right, but has swerved out and is overtaking the Tories to the Right. Small wonder William Hague can be the first terms of the Myster of the first terms. make so little impression. But Mr Blair's neo-Thatcherlsm is of a peculiar sort. On the libertarian-authoritarian spectrum, he leans heavily to the latter. His is the Thatcherism of wider regulation and a highly centralised government sector. Ask any doctor, farmer, teacher or small businessman whether be feels more or less "free under Labour and you will get a

raspherry for a reply... Under Mr Blair as under Mrs Thatcher, intermediate institutions. are distrusted. He believes in Downing Street as the fountainhead of all patronage (even who should be Poet Laureate), but also as sole conduit of political accountability. He is not the man to accord constitutional subsidiarity to Parliament, the judiciary, the professions, the unions or local government. Blairite democracy is what de Tocqueville classified as direct democracy. It uses the media to address the nation over the head of party and Parliament, and uses polisiers to hear the nation's

response.

The political content of such government is impossible to define since it is a residual of market research. It is free-market and Thatcherite, fiscally conservative, authoritarian and centrally ordered. Its watchwords are not social justice but efficiency and value for money. It is essentially illiberal since its middle income constituency is essentially insecure. Yet the public supporting this programme clearly outnumbers those whom it neglects. This world according to Blair is an eeric place. How long it can last remains a mystery.

the Environment.

To most of this Britain cries comment@the-times.co.uk



Cook's round

AS ROBIN COOK braced himself that be was a drunk, he was buying refreshments at an off-licence. Saturday afternoon saw him pop into Victoria Wine in Westerham, three miles from his weekend pad. Chevening in Kent, and bag two boxes of booze. In his thirst, he left a portfolio in the shop. The manager chased after Cook to return it. "He was obviously going to have a

drink, ventures a punter.

Next day, Margaret Cook said she had once found the Foreign Secretary reclining on a dinin room floor, thirst sated. His friends denied the slurs: Harriet Harman was "astonished". Confused, I rang the PO. It refused to comment, then rang back: "He was buying wine for two dinner parties." How jolly.

• INSPECTING the posterior of that magnificent creature, Pe Mandelson, has been Sir David Attenborough. Alarmed by extreme tales about the former minister, he examined Peter's behind in a box at the Albert Hall. No, he couldn't find a demonic pointed tail, he told Mandelson — who was unamused.

Not versed

THE widow of T.S. Eliot (both pictured) has said no contemporary poet is talented enough to become Poet Laureate. She has urged me to



tell No 10 to veto the shortlist: "I don't see what the rush is. Look at what has gone before - the talent of Hughes and Betjeman which is not matched now. They should wait until there is someone outstanding. Paul Muldoon could be perfect in a few years." Perfectly dull, perhaps.

• PRIM matrons in Hampshire are wilting because of plans for an unrual Benny Hill festival. The comedian immortalised Eastleigh in his song Ernie the Milkman (he worked on the town's floats, givin him inspiration for life) and local historians want to mark his birth-day. "We will have floats, with locals dressed as Benny, and a milk horse," says Gordon Cox, of a local history club. Says a local pillar: "Bikini bimbos are just not us."

JEMPA (AD)

Off spinner
THE son of Glenda Jackson, the former Oscar-wining actress, is a candidate to take Charlie Whelan's job as Gordon Brown's spinner. Dan Hodges has managed to sell Steve Norris, the energetic head of the Road Haufage Association, to a surprised public. But he might blanche at plotting a "Norris for mayor" campaign, especially if his Mum runs for Labour. Like Whelan, he is a regular at the Red Lion pub, and is popular with ministers,



many of whom he has known as friends of Glenda since childhood. "It's time to hang up my CB radio. I will be leaving the RHA soon. I am interested in working for the Chancellor." Good luck, matey.

● A RAG invites readers to bid for lunches with celebs, to chew over the careers of Rory Bremner. Darcey Bussell, or Alastair Campbell. Hmm, muck-raking for lunch.

Low spirits

SINEAD O'CONNOR, the rebellious Irish tock chick who ripped up a picture of the Pope, has been told she can become a priest. The offer of ordination is from dissident Bishop Pat Buckley, excommunicated after marrying divorcess. Buckley says O'Country has a "deep spiritual element. So deep that she describes her devotion to God as "something for myself."

JASPER GERARD

'Don't worry about the dreaded millennium bug. With a bit of luck, we may never even get there'

know, even as I strum these opening bars, that I shall hate myself in the morning: because that is when I shall see this stuff in print, and know that you are hating me, too. Yet, much as I hate your hating me even more than I hate hating myself, I have no professional option: it is the traditional lot of the soothsayer to get the sooth said and then wait to be not merely hated but stoned, blinded, incinerated, chucked over cliffs, and generally given the bum's rush for doing no more than his duty to say it, if the said sooth is not what his listeners want to hear.

And you will not want to hear mine. For despite the fact that I am giving you 210 days' warning of the sooth, there is nothing you can do about it, except spend

those days growing ever more anxious as each one passes. And God knows you are anxious cnough already: indeed, there may well be far fewer of you around than usual to read and hate me tomorrow as the result of your having once again spring up early to hurtle from shop to shop, filling your car-boots with soap, pilchards, fags, whiskey, candles, aspirins, razor blades, mint cake, long-life milk and big fat books, thanks to the scant 352 days you thought you had until the arrival of the only thing you thought you had to be anxious over because you couldn't do anything about it.

Well, the good news is that you may have 142 fewer days to drive yourself nuts at the prospect of January 1, 2000, and the bite of the bug that will fill the welkin

with Ukrainian missiles, change all the traffic lights to blue, cut off your utilities, blow your pension fund on loose women, and force you into the cellar to survive as best you can on your Tesco hoardings. The bad news is that you may not have to endure those 142 days of anxiety because

you may not get past August 11, 1999. I know this because I have spent the weekend reading about total eclipses. With one single hem, a tale of plague and shipwreck fire and flood, rapine exception these are a bad thing. and since that single exception exists only in fiction, you can see and mania. To pluck just one from my many sources, the how truly bad a thing they are. The exception is Victorian stories Anglo-Soxon Chronicle cannot involving English schoolboys in

Polynesian cooking-pots, where, just before the chums come to the boil, a total eclipse causes the Fuzzy-Wuzzies to flee in terror, so that their lunches have only to wait until the Sun reappears to burn their bonds with a magnify-ing glass and paddle home to Eton.

in real life eclipses are not as benevolent the history of the blotted Sun is an unremitting record of death, destruction and may-

A days; simpler by far than next August 11, when stiff cattle and barking clerics will be the least of our concerns. I note,

for example, that five million visitors will be heading for Cornwall's unparalleled ecliptic view. How will they get there when, with barely a century to anticipate the demand, the Department of Transport has had neither the time to lift the Honiton contraflow nor the clout to persuade the rail companies to lay on the entra carriage they have been building since 1991? Will the emergency services be able to cope with the ensuing

dogs grew feral, crops withered, and bishops went mad.

How can they, they cannot cope with anything now, how will it be with anything now, how will it be with half of them off work and trying to get to Cornwall? And never mind Cornwall, can the NHS handle the vast numbers of nationwide injuries occasioned by people walking into things in the blackness, getting crushed by falling cows, and hitten by crazed pets or bishops?

I snatch these horrors at random, for who can guess what terrors await us when the Sun goes out, leaving villains to phunder unchecked. Cabinet min-isters to be distracted by all sorts of unlit mischief, or even (he's a strange cove, your Johnny Sun) computers to blow a gasker? Then again, might I be fretting for nothing? Might, right this record an eclipse without observenance chaos, the rages which follow it, minute, the Prime Minister being that cows dropped dead, the casualties which follow that? working on an Eclipse Initiative?







IN EUROPE'S NAME

The European Parliament should vote out the Commissioners

Jacques Santer is right about one thing, and wrong in every other aspect of his handling, both arrogant and self-exculpatory, of the European Parliament's challenge to the European Commission. The President is right that only "zero tolerance" will put the Commission's management of public money "above reproach". Yet the only zero tolerance that he himself has shown is of the whistle-blowing by honest officials from within his own walls. His barefaced assertion this week that "we are a victim of our own transparency" would alone justify an ample majority in the European Parliament tomorrow for the vote of censure that would force all 20 Commissioners to stand down.

Mr Santer, who took office in 1995 promising that his Commission "will do less, but do it better", has had four years in which to clean the stables of nepotism. cronyism and corruption. How little has changed since the Delors heyday is best illustrated by last November's annual. report of the Court of Auditors, which for the fourth year running qualified the Commission accounts because £3 billion, S per cent of the total budget, was fraudulently spent or could not be accounted for. Citing "systematic failures to apply requisite checks", it concluded: "The incidence of errors affecting ... transactions ... is so high that the Court has had to give an adverse opinion on legality and regularity."

If the EU were a business, in other words, its directors would be facing the courts. The report found a £2.8 billion understatement of the Commission's "off balance sheet commitments". The gaps hide a tale of faked contracts and building projects, of officials trading bribes for jobs, of ghost workers and of sinecures for friends, such as the contract Edith Cresson, the Commissioner for youth training, gave her dentist for advice on Aids. The latest audit discovered that £600 million allocated to repairing 65 unsafe nuclear power plants in Eastern Europe had been lost, wasted, embezzled or left unspent.

The Commission's response shows the culture at work. It admits that there were no records for the £600 million but insists that it was not wasted and that "only" £2 million was being investigated for fraud, Without accounts, how could it know? To the ostrich reflex, add obstruction. The Court's President, Bernhard Friedmann, complains that the Santer Commission blocked with "untruths" his auditors' efforts to investigate £420 million of what the Commission calls "book-keeping errors" — money that vanished from the

EU's 1993-95 humanitarian aid budget and fraudulent aid contracts worth a -further £1.7 million. Police investigating corruption in security and tourism budgets have had to battle against non-disclosure of documents and the Commission's reluctance to lift officials' immunity. It was the Court, not the Commission, that forced the closure of the Mediterranean programme because of serious abuses, cited by Mr .Santer as proof of his zeal. Mr Santer says that Ucial, his internal anti-fraud unit, tackled 5,000 fraud cases last year. Even if that were credible - it has only 30 staff barely 50 officials have been disciplined and only eight dismissed.

"If fraud in the European Community goes on as it has," Herr Friedmann believes, "it could bring down the whole of the EU." Mr Santer has this week had the gall to berate Goran Persson, the Swedish Prime Minister, for saying much the same. But in the looking glass world of EU politics, the likelihood is that it will not

even bring down this Commission. Last November Mr Santer dared the European Parliament to back him or sack him, knowing that its only power is the blunderbuss of a censure vote against all 20 commissioners, just and unjust alike. The dominant Socialist group has abetted his gamble; it has been exhorted behind the scenes by Germany and Britain to avoid an hiatus until a new Commission was appointed. This argument is spurious; the best Commissioners could be part of a new team determined to sweep Brussels clean. It is better that there should be a short crisis than a Commission shorn of credibility hanging on for a final year.

To lure MEPs into making fools of themselves by backing down, Mr Santer has thrown them a few German-made bones of accountability. But he has stood by Mme Cresson, whose Leonardo programme is riddled, internal auditors report, with "the misappropriation of funds", and by Manuel Marin, head of humanitarian aid when vast sums went missing and, now, of the disgraced Med programme. Even if a strong majority passes resolutions denouncing them tomorrow, neither is expected to go gracefully.

That leaves the blunderbuss. The EU Parliament is a glass house from which to throw stones. But, while the expenses MEPs claim are scandalous, the censure vote is their chance to show that they are not craven as well as venal. With an eye on this year's EU elections. MEPs should block their ears and vote for censure in Europe's name. "

YEMEN AND FINSBURY PARK

Unanswered questions from killings and kidnap

The arrest of five British Muslims in Yemen is embarrassing because it suggests that the kidnappers who seized their Western hostages were inspired by Islamic activities that would be clearly criminal if radicals in this country. It is disturbing because the Yemeni authorities have neither charged nor freed the men, amidevidence of mistreatment in prison. What is also plain is that Britain is still seen abroad as a haven for Islamic extremists.

The link between the kidnappings and. the arrests centres on the Finsbury Park mosque in North London, where the imam, who makes no secret of his wish to overthrow the Sanaa Government, was in contact with the kidnappers after the: Birmingham Muslims, including his own. stepson, set out for Yemen. Under Sheikh. Abu Hamza, the mosque has become a notorious centre of extremism. Pamphlets circulated here a few years ago calling for the killing of foreigners in Algeria. Omar Bakri Mohammed, who tried to organise a rally of Muslim anti-Western activists in local Muslims are so incensed by the extremism preached there that they have publicly dissociated themselves from it.

....

Whether or not the mosque has been running training camps, it is disturbing that London should have become sosignificant a centre for those calling for

Islamic revolution. Britain has come under attack from its friends in the Middle East and Europe for its long tolerance of directed against this country: these include the plotting, material support and advocacy of terrorism. Under legislation tacked on to the emergency anti-terrorism Bill after Omagh, the first two are indeed now illegal. The Government has meanwhile tried to reassure France. Germany and others that it will not allow London to become the centre of global Islamist plots.

Yet if the Yemeni charges are upheld, Middle Eastern regimes locked in struggle with Islamist groups will use London as a scapegoat, insisting that all local terrorism is masterminded from abroad. Some, like the radicals in Britain, have an interest in exaggerating the influence of splinter groups. This is unjust to the vast majority of British Muslims, who are appalled by the glorification of political violence that does such harm to the perception of Islam. 1996. is associated with the mosque. Many . As Britain's Muslims approach Eid al-Fitr. the joyful feast marking the end of Ramadan, they do not want to be associated with kidnappings and subversion preached by a few fanatics trying to build up a following. Islam is a noble religion; the law must be invoked against those whose violent creeds debase it.

BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

The DSS should look with sympathy at deaf ex-servicemen

All too often Conservative ministers in the last Parliament appeared to make decisions more on the literal application of rules than the spirit behind them. One example, shortly to be re-examined by this: Government, concerned the conditions under which former servicemen may claim additional benefit payments for loss of hearing linked to their time in uniform.

Until 1996 this extra income could be awarded in one of two circumstances. A claimant would be immediately compensated if, at the moment of leaving military life, he or she had suffered at least a 20 per cent loss of hearing as a result of excessive noise encountered during service. Others who had suffered lesser but notable hearing loss would be entitled to a rising increment in benefit over time as they too approached this 20 per cent figure. The logic behind this second section was that either there would be an after-effect of hearing loss incurred through service or that the noise encountered during these years made premature deafness much more probable. Two years ago, the last Government

declared that new scientific evidence had

category. There were no secondary effects of partial deafness after the initial noise-related incidents had occurred and virtually all subsequent additional loss of hearing was a result of ageing. This change saved the social security budget £35 million; and left veterans outraged. They were support-ed by David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, who argued that the switch ran against "all conventional medical evidence and is a smokescreen to save money".

In 1998 Baroness Hollis of Heigham announced that the new Government now accepted the data on which its predecessor had altered past arrangements. The minister acknowledged that this was an area of controversy and offered a further review by independent experts that will be completed next month. The Royal British Legion has sought, without success, to persuade the Government to spend £20,000 on fresh research on the cumulative loss of hearing. Ministers will not find it easy to persuade the public that those who suffered during Service life are not more likely to endure deafness later. Their case will be stronger if they have ensured that every avenue of undermined the basis for this latter proper inquiry has been fully exhausted.

ERS TO THE EDITOR

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High standards demanded of those in public life

ه کذار من رایم

From the Vicar of Jesmond

Sir. In supporting Robin Cook (report. January 11), Tony Blair seemed to dismiss the issues relating to the private life of his Foreign Secretary as 'scandal, gossip and trivia'. The Prime Minister wanted to get back to "the things that really matter".

But the break-up of marriage and the marriage-based family does "really maner". Even if you ignore the private human damage, there are public exchequer costs. According to govern-ment estimates the annual "costs to the public purse of marital breakdown" are a staggering £5 billion (Research Paper 96/42 p74), and that excludes all hidden costs. Surely it does "really matter" that £5 billion is not potentially available for the current NHS crisis, or for education.

The sexual immoralities and marriage failures of public figures who should set public standards are a proper public concern. They cannot be dismissed as "trivia". They call for repentance. Lord Nolan, the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, when interviewed soon

after Tony Blair took office. said: experience has caused the greatest misery to other human beings, I would put adult-ery pretty high on the list. I don't actually think you can expect a manufactually Of all the behaviour which in my personal k you can expect a man with the strains of public life to perform adequately unless he has got a good home life to go back to.

Yours faithfully. DAVID HOLLOWAY, 7 Otterburn Terrace, Jesmond. Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AP. January 11.

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, In her comment on the Margaret Cook book extracts ("A divorce of convenience", January 12), Libby Purves writes: "The only test of any action is whether it does good, and who can possibly benefit from this post-marital character assassination?

Well. I believe we all can; if only

Blair and the Lib Dems

because it serves as a reminder that. ostensibly, politicians are representa-tives of our society, having all the values and faults that are contained

within it. The shell of superiority with which many of them clothe themselves is a part of the act that is meant to protect them from being seen as ordinary mortals and 10 delude themselves into believing that any special gifts that they might have outweigh other con-

In the end, all politicians' beliefs are self-serving. The accountements of their position offer them some respite from what the rest of us must suffer as a result of their indulgences.

Yours faithfully ALAN CHALLONER. Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire LLIS 5UR. January 12.

From Mr Michael Stewardson

Sir, So Labour and the Prime Minister want an end to "gossip column" politics (don't we all). Funny: seemed to suit them well enough in opposition.

Yours sincerely. MICHAEL STEWARDSON, 6 Old Main Road, Pawlen. Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4RY.

From Mrs Susannah Chapman

Sir. How sad to have a Foreign Secretary who leaves his admirable wife for his secretary. I am amazed how much newsprint has been taken up by the examination of the issues surrounding what used to be known as his "private life", just at a time when he and the Prime Minister have dragged us all into some very serious moves in the Middle East. I am very much more concerned by the increasing lack of diplomatic judgment he has shown than any domestic failings.
Why should the UK abandon the UN and all its careful approach in this thoughtless way? The raids on Iraq have caused huge damage to the development of international diplo-

macy in the region.

Why should we take a solitary policeman's role in the Middle East? We are no longer an empire and need a united approach with the rest of

Europe.

Why should we play lapdog to Clinton whose judgment and timing must have some relation to his own domestic interests? When a Muslim radical declares on

television that our Government is guilty of international terrorism. I find myself in the astonishing and very sad position of agreeing with him.

Yours sincerely. S. CHAPMAN. Dove House, Sutton, Suffolk 1P9 2SD. January 12.

From Mrs Patricia Perry

Sir. It has never been enough to be clever: those who demonstrate a lack of balanced judgment in their private lives invariably run the risk of showing the same unfortunate quality in their business and public activities. How does the reputation of Great Britain stand now throughout the

Yours truly, PATRICIA PERRY, Long Meadow, Church Street, Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3PP.

From Mr Simon Levene Sir. It would have been nice if the Foreign Secretary had had an ethical domestic policy as well.

Yours faithfully, SIMON LEVENE. 20 Berwyn Road, Richmond upon Thames TWIO 5BS. January 10.

Organ donors' 'presumed consent'

From Earl Russell

Sir. Peter Riddell (Blairism at a turning point": January 11) says that any movement of opinion "has been from Labour to the Liberal Democrats, rather than to the Tories. This suggests a mini-protest, rather than any fundamental shift in opinion". This prompts the reply: "Opinion on what question?"

Tony Blair's support has been so high because he has enjoyed the support both of those who voted for him because he was a change and those who voted for him because he was not. The fact that he has lost support to the Liberal Democrats suggests it was those who believed he was a change who are now disillusioned.

If Blair takes Peter Riddell's advice. the number of those distillusioned will grow, and so will the number of Liberal Democrat supporters.

Yours sincerely. . . RUSSELL. House of Lords. January IL

Nursing shortage

From Mrs Frances Stott, SRN

Sir. You are absolutely right to say that in order to tackle the current nursing crisis ministers need to take a fresh look at nurses training leading article, January 11; letters, January 12]. While student nurses do spend time on the wards, much of their training now takes place in the classroom. No one would dispute the value of this, but for a practical job like nursing, classroom training should come second to practical experience. By bringing student nurses back to

the wards we would take pressure off trained staff; a competent student nurse is quite capable of taking a con-siderable amount of responsibility. Students would get most of their

training where they need it — doing the actual job. And the huge amount of money currently spent on class-room training (do student nurses really need to be taught such subjects as gender studies and sociology?) could be channelled towards a more realistic salary on completion of training.

Yours faithfully, FRANCES STOTT, Bleak House, Coppenhall, Stafford STIS 9BW. January II.

Future for the flag

From Mr Stephen Flook

Sir. If at some time in the future Scot-land were to gain its independence, what would become of the dear old Union Jack?

The thought of our flag being de-prived of its Scottish element is depressing. However, could its relention in its present form be justified? Yours faithfully,

S. A. FLOOK, Court Lane Vineyard, Ropley, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 ODE. January 12

Business leners, page 27

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

From Professor Roger Williams and

Mr Robert A. Sells, FRCS

Sir. The agreement of the British Medical Association ethics committee that the profession should consider dropping their opposition to the removal of organs for transplantation without the express permission of the deceased (but in the absence of recorded objection - so called "presumed consent") represents a major shift in medical opinion (report, December 28). It has been supported by a major report in The Lancet (May 30, 1998).

Much of the resistance of doctors in the past to such a change in the law related to a worry that it might provoke an acrimonious debate, dam-aging public confidence in transplantation as a whole. We feel, like the BMA: that this is no longer likely to be the case, provided that the change is preceded by informed public debate.

Other measures for encouraging consent during life through the National Donor Register have had a limited impact. It would, in our view, be more informative and useful if the register was modified to include objections to donation as well as consent. In Belgium less than 2 per cent of the population have recorded an objection to the use of their organs since 1986, when "presumed consent" legislation was introduced into that country. Since then organ donation has substantially increased.

An additional statutory responsibility on hospitals - namely the early detection of suitable donors - would also increase the number of organs. This has been achieved in Spain by increasing the number of transplant co-ordinators and extending their role. The number of Spanish organs donated per million population is nearly double that in this country.

There is unequivocal, published evi-dence in the medical press that these

From the Chief Scientist

Sir, I was puzzled by the comment in your interesting report on the cliff fall at Beachy Head (January 12) that this was proof that coastal landmarks are

have been protected from the sea.

There is no doubt that our coastline

The lesson I take from Beachy seeking to prevent it.

Yours faithfully, KETTH DUFF, Northminster House, Peterborough PEI IUA. January 12.

two initiatives are effective in other European countries in closing the gap between transplant organ supply and demand. We therefore strongly back

Yours etc. ROGER WILLIAMS (Director, Institute of Hepatology, University College London). ROBERT A. SELLS (Consultant transplant surgeon. Royal Liverpool University Hospitals). Institute of Hepatology, University College London, Harold Samuel House, 69-75 Chenies Mews, WCIE 6HX. January 5.

the BMA in its proposal.

From Mr T. T. King, FRCS

Sir, In wishing to shift opinion in favour of the recipient's rights to an organ and away from the donor's to agree, the BMA's ethics committee is proposing what I imagine is a new ethical principle; if one person has need of something belonging to another who apparently no longer needs it, it may be taken without

It has always seemed to me that there have been two problems for transplant surgeons in their search for donors. One is that as suitable cases become available mostly by accident the supply is likely to be chronically inadequate. The second is that there is probably latent among those caring for suitable donors in their terminal state a distaste for the

The BMA proposal may do some-thing to sidestep the second but is unlikely to solve the first.

Sir, Mr Edward Russell (letter, Dec-

ember 30) queries the correct naming

of years in the next century. Two

thousand and odd or twenty and odd.

ley Kubrick made the definitive science fiction film 2001 (pronounced two thousand and one). They seem to

have set a precedent.

Yours sincerely, DAVID T. STAPLES,

Il St Luke's Church,

dstaples@tpc-lon.com

From Mr Jim Pearman

42 Mayfield Road, N8 9LP.

Light on the subject

Sir, Philip Howard (January 8) asks

how people did their intricate work with so little light in days gone by.

I had an elderly relative who made

lace using a small oil lamp with the

light focused through a spherical

bottle. This produced a spot of light about one inch in diameter; just

enough to enable her to work.

1840 Steenhuffel, Belgium.

jim.pearman@compaq.com

Yours faithfully,

January 8.

JIM PEARMAN,

Brouwerijstraat 29,

tn 1968 Arthur C. Clarke and Stan-

Yours sincerely. T. T. KING, Ridgemount, Hutton Mount, Brentwood, Essex CM13 2LX. January L

Beachy Head cliff fall Time warp? From Mr David T. Staples

at English Noture

under threat. Erosion created landmarks such as

Beachy Head, and the cliffs are kept fresh and white by cliff falls. Without erosion the vertical white cliffs would stabilise and become covered by vegetation, turning green and losing much of their special landscape value. This has happened where chalk cliffs

is changing and, as the Environment Agency says, this process is probably speeding up. This presents us all with a real challenge, but in seeking to meet it we should not forget that the coastline we love has been shaped by natural forces, including erosion.

Head is that if we want a living coast rather than a sterile, ugly, expensive and ultimately unsustainable concrete mess we will have to learn to live with change rather than always

Chief Scientist, English Nature.

Roman origins? From Professor J. G. Evans

Did Paris have

Sir. Parisians should not be cast down try the findings of an archaeologist at the Ancient Paris Commission which suggest a Roman, rather than Gallic origin for their city treport, January 81. The paucity of remains beneath the Roman city Lutetia and, in particular. the absence of streets, houses and the earthworks of an oppidum are no hindrance to the area having been an important focus of Celtic life.

Oppida often enclosed an area of several tens of hectares, but they are an enigmatic type of site and served a multiplicity of purposes, varying from cattle enclosures, sites of prestige or

ritual, to meeting places. importantly, they were not always formal settlements or proto-towns even Caesar saw some hillforts with no urban characters as oppida. In-deed, there may have been oppida without earthworks at all, with just the place being important - a cleared area of woodland set aside for annual meetings and ceremonies and later put aside for grazing cattle. In Britain, York, Roman Eboracum, founded in an area of intensive Iron Age pastoral-

ism, is on just such a site. The methods of environmental archaeology like pollen analysis and soil science should be used to examine the surfaces beneath Roman Lutetia for traces of woodland clearance, pasturing, and other signs of intensive land use.

The natural features of the site, too, may be weighed in favour of a pre-Roman origin, with a major river. lowland meadows, all typical of many

Yours sincerely, JOHN EVANS, Department of Archaeology, University of Cardiff, PO Box 909, Cardiff CFI 3XU.

Hendrix v Segovia

From Mr Martin Pearce

Sir, Mr Graham Wade's letter (January 7), extolling the claims of his hero, Segovia, over those of Jimi Hendrix to be included in your People of this Century, betrays reactionary hall-marks more characteristic of the last.

He says that Segovia "abominated everything represented by [Hendrix's culture of cacophony, drugs and bizarre behaviour". Surely one man's "cacophony" is another man's sweet music. I personally am not keen on opera, dance, rap or jungle music but would never write them off.

II drugs and bizarre behaviour disbarred anyone from claims to genius Coleridge, Byron, Mozart and Picasso amongst many others would have to be excluded.

Hendrix's brilliantly innovative use of amplifiers, feedback and white noise, as well as his incredible stage act, are still widely admired and emulated today. Just because he was prepared to experiment both with his music and ultimately his life doesn't make him any less a candidate than Segovia might have been.

Yours faithfully, M. PEARCE, The Chapel, Church Lane, Islip. Oxfordshire OX5 ZTA. January 8.

From Mr P. Binley

Sir. Whilst Mr Wade put forward an otherwise convincing case for includ-ing Segovia over Jimi Hendrix, he did fail to indicate whether Segovia's abilities stretched to playing the guitar with his teeth.

Yours faithfully. P. BINLEY, 4 Palairet Close. Bradford on Avon BAI5 IUS. January 7.

True lies?

From Mr John Hicks

Sir, You report today that, in a test devised by a management experi-anyone who answers "true" to the question "I have never unknowingly told a lie - true or false?" is placed under suspicion.

That is unfortunate, because to anyone who understands the ordinary use of the English language there can be no other answer.

We all often unknowingly say things which are not true, but that is not lying. A false statement is a lie only if intentional. To lie unknowingly is a contradiction.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HICKS, 17 Montagu Square, WIH IRD. mandjhicks@btinternet.com January 7.

From the Reverend Dr Peter Cameron

Sir, The only appropriate answer to the question "Have you ever unknowingly told a lie?" is the one Mr Gromyko is reputed to have given to a journalist who asked him at a summit conference if he had had a good hreakfast:

"Possibly." Yours faithfully.
PETER CAMERON. St Mary's Rectory, Birnam, Dunkeld, Perthshire PHS 0BJ. January 8.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE January 12: Mrs Christian Adams has succeeded The Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to

ST JAMES'S PALACE January 12: The Prince of Wales. Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall, Mr Robert

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 12: The Prince Edward, Patron, Ocean Youth Club, this evening attended the London International Boat Show at Earls Court.

The Princess Royal will present the

Institution of Incorporated Engineers Young Woman Engineer of

the Year Award 1998 at the Royal Society of Arts. John Adam Street,

London, WC2 at 11.20; and as president Royal Yachting Associa-

tion, will attend a luncheon at the

London International Boat Show.

Earls Court, SW5, at 12.45, Later,

as president, British Knitting and

Clothing Export Council, she will attend the British Apparel Export

Awards at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London W2.

Mr Craigie Aitchison, painter, 73: Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, former Premier of Queensland, 88: Mr Richard Blackford, composer,

45: Mr Michael Bond, author and

creator of Paddington Bear, 73; Dr Sydney Brenner, CH, FRS, molecu-

civil servant, 66: Mr Edward

Crew, Chief Constable, West Mid-

lands, 53; the Earl of Essex, 79; Mr

Stephen Glover, former Editor. The Independent on Sunday, 47; Mr Stephen Hendry, snooker player, 30; Professor Gordon McVie, director-general, Cancer

Research Campaign, 54; Mr Ro-nan Rafferty, golfer, 35; Sir Colin Shepherd, former MP, 61; Mr

Bernard Shrimsley, journalist, 68: Mr K.C. Turpin, former Vice-Chan-

BIRTHS: Jan van Goyen, land-scape painter. Leiden, The Nether-

lands, 1596; Charles Perrault, writ-

cellor, Oxford University, 84.

Anniversaries

biologist, 72: Sir John Caines,

Birthdays today

Today's royal

engagements

1864; Sir John Seeley, historian, Cambridge, 1895; James Joyce, novelist, Zurich, 1941; Hubert Humphrey, American Vice-President 1965-69, Waverley, Minneso

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 12: The Princess Royal.

President, Animal Health Trust,

this evening attended a Dinner at

Arley Hall. Knutsford, Cheshire and was received by Viscount

Ashbrook JP (Vice Lord Lieutenant

January 12: The Princess Marga-

ret. Countess of Snowdon. President, The Guide Association, held

a Reception at Kensington Palace

this afternoon following the presen-tation of Brooches to those who

have become Queen's Guides.

KENSINGTON PALACE

ta. 1978. Nasa selected its first women astronauts, 1978

Dinners Millennium Bridge

Mr Nick Raynsford, MP. Minister for London, was the principal guest and speaker at a dinner held last night at the Globe Theatre to mark the start of work on the Millennium Bridge. Sir Norman Foster, OM. and Mr David Bell also spoke. Among those present

The Bishop of London and Mrs Chartres, the Bishop of Southwark and Mrs Butler, Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, and Lady Alexander, Lord and Lady Sainsbury of Turville, Mr Simon Hughes, MP, the Hon Sir Nicholas Serota, Sir Anthony and Lady Caro, Lady Foster, Mr Simon Jenkins and Miss Gayle Hunnicutt, Brigadier and Mrs Robert Acworth, Mr

Colin Amery. Mrs David Bell, Mr and Mrs John Bond, Mr and Mrs Michael Cassidy. Mr and Mrs Roger Dancey, Mr and Mrs Stuart Lipton, Dr and Mrs Duncan Michael, the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral and Mrs Moses, Mr and Mrs Stephen O'Brien, Mr Malcolm Reading, Mr and Mrs Albert Scardino, the Provost of Southwark and Mrs Slee, Mr and Mrs Hugh Stevenson, Mr and Mrs John Tusa, the Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company and Mrs Vanderpump and representatives of other companies and bodies connected with the Millenni-

er and collector of folk tales. Paris. um Bridge. St Edmund Hall, Oxford DEATHS: Edmund Spenser, poet, London, 1599; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends: London, 1691; James Macknight, biblical crinc, Edinburgh, 1800; John Scott,— 1st Earl of Eldon, Lord Chancellor 1801-06 and 1807-27, London, 1838; Mr Dudley Wood, president of the St Edmund Hall Association, was in the chair at the association's London dinner held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr J P D Dunbabin, vice-principal of St Edmund Hall, Mr Justin Gosting, Fabian Bellinghausen, polar ex-plorer, Russia, 1852; Stephen Col-lins Foster, songwriter, New York, Hon Fellow and Mr Nigel Pegram. president of the junior common room were the principal guests. the gap in arts and crafts By DALYA ALBERGE

Narrowing

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CLOTHES that no one could ever wear, because they are made of porcelain and wood. are among works of art that will be shown in an exhibition challenging perceptions about the fine and applied arts.

Janice Blackburn, the

award-winning curator of the

exhibition opening at Sotheby's in London next month, is determined "to show that there is a much narrower gap" than some might think. "The big difference is in terms of pride," she said, expressing despair at artists, fine art galleries and collectors who look down on the decorative arts as "craft" - "old fashioned, outdated, something that smacks of open-toed sandals and hanging baskets". Real dresses dipped and preserved in porcelain by Tiziana Bendall-Brunello, or

gowns sculpted in wood by

Victoria Metcalf, she said, are

no less conceptual than the

work of Cornelia Parker, short-

listed last year for the Tate

Gallery's Turner Prize for



works that included displaying a man's white shirt on a coat-hanger and dangling bits of cuttery from the White Cliffs of Dover. "Craft can be challenging, as well as beautiful and functional.

She spoke of the difference of attitude among artists, dealers and collectors. "People who make things have to struggle more. In a sense they are much more accessible People who do fine art feel

olanus between March 10 and 13.

Woodard Lectures take place on

lanuary 14, February 9 and March

16. Later in the year, all former pupils are invited to attend the Old

Johnian Reunions which for pre 1960 members will be on Saturday,

May I, for 1961-1980 on Saturday,

For further information of these

May 22 and for 1981-1998 on

and all other Sesquicentennial events, including dinners and

Gala Ball, ring Mr Nicholas Searls

Term begins today and ends on Friday, March 26. The Duologues

Competitions take place in the Studio Theatre on Wednesday, February 10. The School Concert is at Merchant Taylors' Hall at 6.45pm on Monday, March 8; and the Orchestral and Choral Concert

takes place in the Great Hall on Monday, March 22. The Visit by

Saturday, June 12,

on 01273 835331.

School

Merchant Taylors'

they don't have to discuss their work with anybody ... What this means is that people are missing out on an opportunity to buy great work. So-called contemporary collectors think there is a stigma attached to it. Craft is a stumbling block to

collecting."

Ms Bendall-Brunello, who came to Britain from Italy ten years ago, described her porce-lain clothes as "conceptual" — "yet I use a media that is

orcelain, associated with tableware" It depends how you use it, she said. Producing porcelain clothes was a way of freezing something in time. which one could not do with a fabric. At the same time, it produced an evocative image.

The exhibition, which runs from February 4 to II, mixes recent graduates - the Scottish art schools are among the most prominent - with more established artists.

School announcements

Bedstone College

Spring Term began on Monday. The College will host the Midlands ISA Cross Country Champion-ships on Wednesday, February 3, and the College production of Grease will take place in the Rees Hall Theatre on March 18, 19 and 20. Scholarship and Entrance Examinations take place on Monday, March L Half term commences after the Fifth and Sixth year Parents' Consultation on Saturday. February 13, to 6pm on Wednesday, February 17. Term ends on Saturday, March 27.

Eton College Eton College opens today for the Lent Half. P.N. Mortey Fletcher KS continues as Captain of the School and C.P.W. Fielding OS as Captain of the Oppidans
The examination for Junior Schol-

arships will be held on January 30 and the examination and interviews for South Form Scholarships on February 12 and 13. The Business Conference starts on February 22, and Long Leave will be from February 25 to March 1. There will be services of Confirmation in College Chapel, conducted by the Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln, on March 13 and 14. School closes on March 24.

Frederick Durrenman will Hurstpierpoint College performed from March 18-20 in the Lent Term started on Sunday, January 10. 150th Anniversary Studio Theatre, Jamie Lane is Captain of Hockey, and the XI tours Belgium at half-term. The celebrations begin this term with an Inaugural Service conducted by the Visitor, the Bishop of Chiches-School hosts the regional finals of the European Youth Parliament ter, on Sunday. January 17. The Shakespeare Society present Coricompetition on February 24.

> Royal Russell School. Croydon . A reunion for Old Russsellians

who were at Ballards or Russell Hill Schools will be held on Saturday, May 8, 1999. For details please telephone 0181 657 4433. St Margaret's School. Bushey

PHAB week begins on March 27.

The Spring Term at St Margaret's School, Bushey, begins today and ends on March 26, Charlotte Bunn continues as Head Girl and Aziza Kassam as the Deputy Head Girl. This year marks the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of the school. The Right Rev D. Farmbrough is the speaker at a service to launch the Thanksgiving Celebrations on the first day of term. There will be a 1749 Day for pupils on February 12 and a Dinner for former Head Girls of the School on March 20. Her Majesty's Band of

the Royal Marines, Portsmouth will give a concert in the school grounds on May 15 and Speech Day will be on July 9. The main Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Paul's Cathedral at 2.30pm on S1 Margaret's Day, Tuesday, November 16, .

Wymondham College, Norfolk

Term started on January II at the College and building work has started on the new IIm teaching block for English, History and Religious Studies, This term's drama production will be part of the National Theatre Schools Competition which the College has been invited to enter. The History department will be taking students to visit Normandy and the D-Day Landing Beaches at half term. The GCSE Geography trip is to take place at the end of term and the students will visit Spain. The Service of Confirmation will take place in the College Chapel with Right Rev Malcolm Menin officiating on Sunday, March 21. The Principal will take up his By Fellowship at Churchill College. Cambridge. Open Days for this term will be held on the Saturday mornings of February 6, March

20, May 8 and June 12,

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.R.M. Banham and Miss B.S.G. Meyer

The engagement is announced Mark Richard Middle cost, son of Sir John and Lady Banham, of St Buryan, Cornwall and Birgina Sarah Grace, daugh ter of Mr and Mrs Carl H.A. Mayer, of Harborne, Birming-

Mr M.J. Buras

and Miss F.D. Smedley The engagement is announced, from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, be-tween Michael, son of the late Mr Bruce Burns and of Mirs Pay Burns, of Cultinan, South Africa. and Fions, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Smedley, of Lilley. Hertfordshire.

Mr D.G.L. Cleary and Miss E.K. Gilbey

The engagement is announced between Damian Geoffrey Lissant. son of Mr Anthony Cleary, of Ashow, Warwickshire, and of Mrs Georgina Macqueen, of Graff-ham, West Susser, and Emma Kaye, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gilbey, of Guestling, East

Mr P.R. Dickins and Miss J.B.M. Turnbull

The engagement is announ between Piers, elder son of Mr William Dickinson, of Corbridge, Northimberland, and Mrs Roger Harrison-Topham. of Coverdale. North Yorkshire, and Joanna, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Turnbull, of Surbiton, Surrey. Captain G.R. Francke, PWRR, and Miss M.J. Buinbridge

The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Mr and Mrs John Francke, of Chelwood Gate Sussex, and Magdalena, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bryan Bambridge of Eastbourne, Sussex.

Mr C.R. Hamilton and Miss F.D. Edwards

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Major and Mrs Charles Hamilton, of Hamwood, Co Meath, Eire, and Prancesca, daughter of Mrs. Edwards and the late Major Richard Ed-wards, of Haslemere, Surrey. Mr S.R. Hawker

and Miss J.E. Imbert .

The enimpement is announced between Stuart, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs R. Hawker, of Upminster, Essex, and Joanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Imbert, of Hutton, Essex. Mr Q.S. Holland

and Miss L.M. Pollen

The engagement is announced between Quinton, son of Mr Brian Holland and Mrs Nicki Holland, and Louise, youngest daughter of Viscountess Sidmouth and the late Mr Francis Pollen.

Dr C.R. Jasparro and Miss V.L. Liardet

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Dr and Mrs R.J. Jasparro, of Provi-dence, Rhode Island, USA, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr A.J. Liardet, of Eastcott, Wiltshire, and Mrs S.M. Reinschneiber, of Aurora, Ohio, USA.

Mr W.D. Kelly and Miss S.M.R. Cairns

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The engagement is announced between William David, son of Mr and Mrs William Kelly, of Dublin, and Sarah Marjory Russell, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Cairns, of Edinburgh.

Mr N.A.P. Kent and Miss J.L. Bailey

The engagement is announced between Nacholas, youngest sen of Mr and Mrs Kenneth J. Kent, of Moor Park, Parnham, Sorrey, and Jame, dangetter of Mr and Mrs Ronald G. Bailey, of Guildford, Surrey.

MrJ.D. Rees and Miss J.E.I.D. Conran-Smith

The engagement is announced lonathan eldest son o Mr and Mrs Robert Reed, of Haywards Heath, and Jillie, elder daughter of Mr. David Conran-Smith and the late Mrs Rosie Conran-Smith, of Clocksbriggs.

Mr R.W. Reed and Miss K. Mutic

The engagement is and between Rupert, younger son of the late Mr Arthur Reed and of Mrs Reed, of London, SWI, and Katarina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roduljub Motic, of Valjevo, Yugo-

Mr R.C.W. Rucker and Miss S.M. Peci.

The engagement is anno between Rupert, son of Brigadier and Mrs James Rucker, of Ashmore, Dorset, and Susie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Peck, of Hassop, Derbyshire.

Captain J.R.C. Scale and Miss L.F. Cowling

The engagement is announced between Captain Jonathan Seale, The Royal Dragoon Guards, son of the late C.O'M.H. Seale and of Mrs Seale, of Fleet, Hampshire, and Lyane Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.F. Cowling, of Malmeshury, Wiltshire.

Mr T.J. Vanghao Hoghes and Miss C.A. Stigter

The engagement is appropried ween Timothy, only son of Mr oetween innour, only son or as and Mrs John Vanglian-Flugfies, of London, and Corene, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Stigter, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr A.M.S. Wedderburn and Miss K.J. Watson

The engagement is amounced between Michael, third son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Wedderburn, of Mountquhanie, Cupar, Fife, and Kathryn, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Gavin Watson, of Paisley, Renfrewshire

University news

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

FAX: 0171 481 9313

Peterhouse, Cambridge The Rev Jonathan Ben Quash (Peterhouse and Fitzwilliam Col-lege) has been elected Dean, Chaplain, Catechist and Official Fellow at Peterbouse, Cambridge.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a real blessing. Psalm 127.3 (GNB2).

BIRTHS COOMES - On 11th January, to Annabelle (née Woiverson) and Edward, a son, William James. DAY - On 2nd January to Suki and Owen, a son, James Archibaid John, a brother for Alastair.

DRING - On January 9th 1999 at The Portland Hospital to Edwina (née Newsome) and Patrick, a daughter, Annabei Louisa. PLANAGAN - On January 6th, 1999 et Jerules (née. 1999, to Louise (nee Dresher) and Adrian, a benotiful son, Benjamio Luke.

HACKNEY - On January 6th 1993 at St. Thomas' Hospital, to Vanesas (née Sharma) and William, a daughter, Elizabeth Laura. KENDALL - On December 29th to Stephen and Niamh (nee Power), a son,

Luc Sebai Luc Sebastian Douglas, brother to Cathryn, Hogo KOPSER - On January 5th at The Portland Hospital to Suzanne and Mark, a girl,

KURIZER - On January 10th 1999 to Sarah (nés Aynsley-Green) and David, a son, Tristan

MRLER - On January 11th. to Catherine inte Marsden-Smedley) and Christopher, a daughter. Anna Penelope, a sister for George.

PETTS - On December 18th Diana (née Laird) and David, a son, Robert William John, a wonde brother for Victoria.

PITMAN - On January 6th to Elizabeth (née Noel) and Henry, a son, Luke.

POTTCHARD-BARRETT - OT January 8th 1999 to Jo and Balloo, a son, Luke David, brother to Sophie and

F PRYCE - On 5th Jenuary 1999 to Katie (née Childs) s w neue (nee Chiici | Simon, a son, Archie | Tatham.

ROHAN - Robert Zimmerman Bear, a brother to Emily and Therlette and a son to Margot and Ian. Born

SAMUELS - On January 5th in Oxford to Allson (née Evans) and Robert, a daughter, Anna Maria. SCHAFER - On January 11th in Germany to Rachel (née Front) and Guido, a son, Jakob Louis, a brother for Claire. DEATHS

BIRTHS THOMAS - On December 21st, 1998 at The Portland Hospital to Fiona (née Smith) and Simon, a daughter, Ella Fra

WALKER – On Wednesday 6th January 1989 to Joans (née Treadgold) and Graeme, a son, Edward.

WHITE - On 6th January to Serona (noe Wells] and Simon, a son, Freddle Harold Everard.

DEATHS

ADAMS - John Trevor Kerby on January 11th after many years of iliness. Dearly loved husband of Jeanne, father of Jeremy. father-in-law of Debbie and grandfather of Harriet and Tom. Private cremation. Memorial service to be held at Portsmouth Meeting House. Northwood Road, on Fridey January 15th at 2.30 pm.

BARRECTON - Peter Malet.

MC and Bar, TD, suddenly
on January 10th 1999 aged
78. Husband of Joan.
Isther of Charles, David
(decamed) and Michael.
Funeral Service at St.
Mary's Church.
Chiddingfold on Friday
15th January at 10.30 am.
Family flowers only.
Doustlons if desired to
Royal Artillery Charitable
Fund. R.A. Berracks,
Woolwich, London SE18
4BH.

BEELEY - Karea, Lady Beeley at home on Sunday evening 10th January 1999, Simply adored. Private family funeral. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon 0171 834 4624

BELFORD - On Saturday 9th January, Dr. Helen Cathleen Belford, aged 50 years, died peacefully at the Maria Curie Hospice, Hunters Hill, Clasgow, after a short illness radiantly borne in Christ's love and power.

Thanksgiving Services are to be held in the Union Church, Istanbul, Turkey on Wednesday 13th January at 5.00pm and at St. George's - Tron, Clasgow, on Saturday 18th January at 12.15pm, proceded by a private cremation service. Family flowers only. Donations to be divided between Bestson Oncology Unit. Western Infirmary.

Clasgow and the Maria

Clargow and the Maria Curie Cancer Care Foundation.

HAIR - At Strachen House

Tel:01243 782965.

SURR - James Godfrey (Bm) on 10th January auddenly at home aged 85. Loving husband of the late Alec Christina and much loved father and grandfather. Fungral Eucharist at Clower St Stephen's Church, Windeer on Saturday 16th January at 11.00 am. No flowers please, but donations to The Gurkha Welfare Trust c/o E Sargeant and Son, 61 St Leonards Road, Windeer SL4 382X.

CLAXTOM: - On 9th January

donations may be sent to the Alzheimers Disease Society.
DEAR - Winifred May
pescriully at a nursing
home in Cooden 10th
January 1999. Wife of the
late Thomas Henry. A
private crematico service
of thankegiving. Family
flowers only, donations to
Bexhill Hospital c/o
Munmery, Bexhill,
Sussex.

romedamine, a plant, e er

DART - Geoffrey James peaceably passed away, after short illness, on MARS - At Strachan House
Nursing Home,
Edinburgh, on 9th January
1999, Sir Aleatair
Campbell Blair KCVO,
WS, aged 90. Devoted
husband of the late
Catrions Ovr and much
respected father and
grandfather. Service at
Canongate Kirk,
Edinburgh, on Monday
18th January at 12 noon, to
which all friends are
invited. Private cremation.
Family flowers only.
BREEZE - Margaryt Mary

Family flowers only.

BREEZE - Margaret Mary
Graham (Peggy), aged 89
years. Peacefully at
Bosham. A much loved
mother and grandmother.
Funeral Service at Holy
Trinity Bosham on
Monday 18th January at
4.15pm, followed by family
cremation. All welcome for
tas at the Millistram
Hotel, Bosham, from
4.45pm. Plowers or
donations to R.S.P.B. c/o
FA Holland and Son, 3
Jubilee Road, Chichester,
Tel:01243 782965.

BURR - James Godfrey (Jim)

Windoor SL4 ZEX.
CLAXTON - On 9th January
1998 at Finborough Court,
Stowmurket, Agnes Jane
aged 94, widow of Sishop
Charles Claxton, much
loved wife, mother,
grandmother. Funeral on
Wedneeday, 20th January
at 12 noon at St Mary's,
Brent Eleigh near
Lavenham. Family flowers
only. Enquiries to Pulcher
Funeral Services Tel.
01247 754049.
CLERIES. On January

01284 754049.

CURIES - On lanuary 9th, peacefully at Radbroke Home, Leatherhead, John Russell, belowed husband of Joy and father of David, Noel and Paul. Funeral at United Reformed Church, Speer Road, Thames Ditton, 2.00pm Thursday 21st January, followed by cremation at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Family flowers only, but donations may be sent to

after short illness, on Friday 9th January 1999 aged 74. Husband of the late Margaret, inde Erskine). Loving father of Greene, Kevin, Gillian, Jonathan, Christopher an grandfather of Benjamin and Hannah. Funeral Service to be held at Cambridge Cremstorium on Monday 18th January 1999 at 3.00pm. Family flowers only plesse. Donations to Dr Barnardos. DORNAM - Stephen Lloyd, suddenly on Jannary 4th, aged 49. Dearly loved son of Gwen and of the late Dr William Dornam and brother of John. Funeral Service at St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, on Thursday 14th January at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donatious, if desired to the Friends of St Laurence or Macmillan to the Friends of St Leurence or Macmillan Cancer Relief, c/o A Hoakins and Son Funeral Directors, Ludlow (01584 872048) or at the Church.

DOWNES - On 12th January
1993, pescefully in the
Pilgrims' Hospice at
Canterbury, John Edmund
Downes, a very loving and
much loved brother, mcle
and great-uncle. Service
at St. Nicholas Church,
Ash, et 3.30pm on Monday
18th January. No Howers,
please, but if desired gifts
instead to the Pilgrims'
Hospice.

DUFFIELD - Leslie, formerly Senior Partner of Pinsent & Co, died on 10th January aged 77. Loved as a Fath Grandfather, Husband and Friend Funeral at and France remeral at Robin Hood Crematorium on Tuesday 19th Ianuary at 11.00am. No mourning, family flowers only, donations if desired to Alzheimer's Disease

DUKE - Brian Peter, on Jamusry Let unacrpectedly at home, aged 65 years. Funeral at Aldershot Crematorium, Wednesday January 20th, 2,00pm. No flowers. Inquiries to Funeral Directors - A & W Goddard Ltd, Kent Road, Fleet, Hants. GU13 9AH. Todo1252 516431. GBS - Irene on Lamary Och. GBS - Irene on January 9th peacefully after a long

GBSS - Irene on Jamary 9th peacefully after a long illness courageously borne. Mother of the late Micholas Fripp and grandmother of Gemma Fripp. Much loved sister, auni, grannla and irlend. Funeral 11.46mm Wednesday 20th Jemmary at Salisbury Cremstorium. Family flowers only but donations to Imperial Cancer Research. Enquiries Diamond & Sons, Lymington, SO41 9DN Tel: 91590 672000.

FORDHAM - Epha died peacefully at the Pantiles Nursing Home, Tumbridge Wells on January 7th, 1999 in her 90th year. Much loved mother of Susan, Michaela and John, stepmother of Jeremy and Chloe, grandmother to their children and greatgrandmother to their children tehildren. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 3.00 pm on Thursday January 21st at St James Church, Ferndale Read, Tumbridge Wells. Family flowers only, donations If desired to Fire Srigades Benevolent Fund or Oxfam. c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tumbridge Wells. TN1 15D. Tel: 01892 522462.

MEATH - Devid passed away on January 8th 1999 aged 62 years, beloved husband of Senan and loving father to Jane, Andrew, Simon, Richard and Paul. Private family cremation, memorial service to take place at 5t Wiffrids' Church, Scraveton, Nottinghamshire on Saturday 23rd January at Church, Servenan,
Nottinghamshirs on
Saturday 23rd January at
11.20 am. Donations in lieu
for Help The Aged may be
sent c/o A Oliver & Soms
FD, 45 Earthorpe Street,
Ruddington, Nottingham
NG11 6LB.

HOLDEN - Frederick John on 8th January 1999 peacefully after a short illness in the Nuffleld Hospital, Bournemouth sped 69. Much loved husband of Shalagh and wonderful father to Simon. Service of Thanksgiving will take place on Yasaday 19th January, 2.00pm a: The Jamusy, 3.00pm at The Church of The Transfiguration, Canford Cliffs, Dorset, No flowers please. Donations if desired for the Cancer Research Campaign may be sent to Tapper Funeral Service, 32/34 Parkstone Road, Poole,

HOLLESNEAD - Marjorie Ingram. Died peacefully is the Sue Ryder Home. Cheltenham, on 5th January, aged 88 years. Beloved wife of the late Cyril and much loved by all her family. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Cheriton Kings, Cheltenham, on Wednesday 20th January at 12.15gm. followed by private cremation. No at 12.15 m., tolkowed by private cremation. No mourning please. Family flowers only, donations for the Leckhampton Court Sto Ryder Home, may be sent to W.S. Treahalle Funeral Directors, 174 Bath Road, Cheltenham, GL53 7NF. HOLLAND - Mary Patricia (Pat Ex. Rhodesia Copper Belt Kitwe and Selishury and latterly Gravesend. Passed away after much suffering bravely endured ton Friday 8th January at Joyce Green Hospital. Requiem Mass at St Johns 2 C Church Gravesend at 8.30 am on Monday 18th January. Flowers and any enquiries from old past friends to Lewis Solomon, 19 Darnley Road. Cravesend Tel 01474 352251.

HOWARD - Frances
Davidena 'Dodle' (née
deWinton) of Sinley and
lormerly of Stad.
Gloncestershire, died
peacefully on 5th January
1999, aged 95 years.
Wonderful mother to
Susan, Angelia, Philip and
Dinna. Also much loved
grandmother to 11
grandchildren and 5 great
grandchildren so fare

KETTLER - Sally. Died peacefully in Portsmouth on the 4th Lanuary 1999. Widow of the Late Johnny Kettler. Sadly missed by her children Christopher. Jacqueline, Jane and Andrew and her eight grandshildren, Johnson grandchildren; Joh Sarzh, Jereny, Jen Charles, Richard, (James, rd, Claire Charles, Richard, Claire and Lynne as well as many iriends in Portamouth. Service at Porchester Crematorium, Hampahire on Wednesday 3rd February at 11.30am, Plowers stay be sent to Barrells Funeral Directors Ltd. Lewiswood, 245 Fratton Road, Portamouth, Hants.

LORD - Katherine Mary on Jamuary 8th at Glabe House Nursing Home aged 91. Fendly remembered by het extended family and Irienda. Formerly of North Court, Hassocia. Cremation Service to be held at Surrey & Sussex Crematorium, Czawley on Thursday 21st January at 2.15pm. Funeral Directors B C Baker & Son, 15-17 High Street, Caterbam CR2 8UE Tel: 01883

MAINWARING - On 9th MARWARING - On 9th
January 1999, poacefully
at home after a long
illness, Aurial Vida, widow
of Mark Kynaston
Malawsting, much loved
mother of Louise and
Robert and devoted
grandmother sud great
grandmother. Fueral at
11.30mm on 18th January
1939 at 5t Michael and All
Angels Church, 1939 at bit matters are an Angels Church, Weishampton, Shropshire. Family Rowers only, donations if desired to the NSPCC or the Alzheimers Disease Society.

grandchildren and S great-grandchildren so fari Private Funeral. There will be a Thanksgiving Service for Dodie and her late husband. Eric on Seturday 27th March 1999 at All Sainte Church, Blaley, hear Stroud, Gloscostershire at 2.30pm. All who knew them will be inest welcome. No flowers please. Donations if desired to The Salvation Army, Samaritans or

MITCHSON - At Carradale House, on the 11th January 1999, Naomi Mitchison aged 101 years, Service at Clydebank Crematorium oo Seturday 16th January 1999 at 9.00am, Scattering 1999 at 9.06am. Scattering of ashes at Carradale on Sunday 17th January at 2.00pm, all friends welcome at either or both, family flowers only. Donations if desired to Oxfam. A memorial meeting in London will be announced later.

MEDILETON - Jose (née
Winterbottom) of
Stamford, on 7th January.
Loved by her many
friends. Frineral at St.
George's Church,
Stamford, Monday 25th
January at 1.15pm
followed by cremation. No
flowers at her request, but
donations if desired to
Hurst Ward Endowment
Fund', Stamford Hospital
c/o E.J. Scholes, St.
George's Street, Stamford
01780 783092.

MORSE - Nancy oz Isnuary 9th 1999 aged 25 years. Peacefully, not in pain. Wife of the late David Wite of the late David
Morse. Mother of
Jonathan, Annabel and
Oliver. Grandmother of
Roses and Emmy. Funeral
at Doddington near
Wooler. Northumberland
on Saturday January 16th
at 12 noon. No flowers
blesses.

PARTIER - On January 8th
Anne Powies of Hereford,
the widow of R A Painter.
Funeral service st
Hereford Cremstorium on
Friday 15th January st.
3,15pm. Flowers If desired
to Bayley Brothers
(Hereford) Lul. Cotterell
Street, Hereford.

RADNOTI - Zoltan Gyozo,
Died suddenly in London,
on Friday, January 8th
1999. Dearly loved
husband of Mary Dwyer
Radnoti. A Hungarian
freedom fighter who loved
his bomeland and who
took great joy in his
adopted county. Funeral
at 9.30 Friday, Jonuary
15th at St. Maryk Chapel,
Kensal Green Cemetery.
No flowers please. Kensal Green Cemetery.
No flowers please.
Donations to the British
Heart Foundation or The
Flood Disaster Fund for
TransCarpathian
Hungarians (cheques made
payable to the National
Federation of Hungarians,
36 College Road, Wembley,
Middx HANS SRJ.

FOGERS. Professor Don

ROGERS - Professor Don, Beloved husband of Lilian, and devoted father, father in-law and grandfather. Called into the presence of his Lord on 9th January. Thanksgiving Service at Beulah Baptist Church Clifford Road, Beahill, on Wednesday 20th January at 2.30pm. In Heu of flowers, gifts for Compass Braille and Torch Trust, made payable to Barchill Braille Bibles c/o Mummery, 31 Devoushire Road, Bezhill TN40 1AH.

Road, Bezhill TN40 IAH.
RISUMECK. - On January 2rd
1999 Olivia Grace, of
Maylisid, Sussex agad 93,
widow of Joseph Spencer
Rudwick of Westminster
School - baloved mother
of Sussen, Josephina,
Martin, Virginis and
Oliver, adored
grandmother of Caroline,
Adrian and Ropert and
proud grand-grandmother.
Memorial Service at St
Dunstant's Parish Church
Mayfield on Thursday
March 11th at 11.30 am.
Donations in her memory
in the National Society for
Epilepsy may be sent to R
Jarvis F/D Cross in Hand,
Hasthfield, Sussen TN21 Heathfield, Sussex TN21 OSP. USSELL - On 6th January,

RUSSELL - On 6th Immery, 1999, Hilda, aged 97 years. For many years Nursing Sister at St. Bartholomews Hospital, London, Requiren Mass at St. Barnahas Church, Tunbridge Wells on Wednesday 20th January at 10.00 am, followed by cremation, No flowers, Alf enquiries to J. Kampster and Sons (tel. 01882–523131).

SALT - Brian Gooste Deniel, aged 83 years, peacefully in the Isle of Man, Beloved brother of Denis and loved nucle and grant-uncle. Enquiries pisses to Cringle & Co Ltd. Telephone (01624) 833602. SCHIPBACH - Ernest
(Schupes) on 11th January
1999 suddenly in hospital
after a long period of poor
health. Husband of Mavis,
father of Lucy Broomfield,
William, Goorge and Tom,
father -in-law of James,
grandfather of Ruyert,
Primrose and Ruy,
Funeral has talten place.

SUMAN - Dr. Mobsen, on 8th January 1999, lumband of Reine, father of Ingl and Dina, brother of Dr. Yehla and Ehsane. Funeral service at 12.00 soon on Monday, 18th January 1999 at St. Mark Coptie Orthodox Church, Allen Street, Kennington. Street, Kensington, London W8. Family London WR. Family
flowers only. Donations, if
desired, to "The Extensive
Care Nurses Fund Special
Trustees" sent to Ingi
Solinana, 31 Downsview
Road, Upper Norwood,
London SE19 3XD.
Enquiries to J. H. Kenyon,
Tei: 0171 937 0757.

STODART - Mary, after a short illness at Bescon House R/R, Fleet, on January 7th. Widow of John Campbell Stodart, dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at the Sacrud Heart RC Church, Farelam, on Wednesday 20th January at 11.45m, followed by burial at the Royal Naval Cometery. Royal Naval Cemetery, Hasier. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund-4/o & W Goddard Ltd, Kant Road, Fleet, Hants, GU13 9AH. Tel:01252 616431.

TAYLOR - On January 10th peacefully in hospital, of Clasgow Cottage, Middleham, North Yorkshire (formerly of Stanley Gardens, Loudon), Pater Vinceut, aged ?? years, Formerly Managing Director of F J Lyons PR Company, London, Beloved son of the late Bishop and Clara Taylor and a good friend of Mark Vanderpismk. Funeral Service and interment at St Mary and St Alkelduh. Vanderplank. Funeral Service and interment at St Mary and St Alkelda's Church, Middleham. North Yorkshire on Saturday January 16th at 1.00 pm. No flowers please, donations if desired for RAF Benevolent Fund c/o Senderson & Co. Funeral Directors St Matthew Works, Leyburn, North Yorks DLS SEG, Priends please meet at the church.

TAYLOR - Harold E
(Borweil), peacefully at home on January 11th.
Loving and most dearly beloved husband of Margaret, tressured father of Sturges, father-in-law of judith and much loved grandfuther of Jonathan.
Paul and Catherine. of Both and much lever grandfather of Jonathan, Paul and Catherine. Funeral at Aymbo Parish Cherch on Friday, 15th January at 10.00 am. Family Bowers only please, donations if desired for Katherine Hottse Hospica of JEM Humphris, 32 Albert Street, Banbury OX16 SDG.

Super-Mare, died on December 19th, She managed The Grand.
Adiantic Hotel with her
husband Eddia for many
years. Her family miss her.
Mexorial Service to be
held at St. Mary's Hutton
on Saturday 23rd January
at 2.30pm. All welcome. No
flowers please but
donations to Weston
Hospice Care, WSM.

TRACER - Irone of Weston-

Hospice Care, WSM.

WIGGLESWORTH - George aged 82, auddenly on 9th January 1998 in High Wycombe. Much loved husband of Eleaner and father of Lucy, John, Jill and Ann. Funeral 3.30pm on 21st January 1999 at Amessham Cranatorium. Pamily flowers only. If desired donations to the British Heart Foundation, care of Surman and Hoswood Funeral Service Horwood Fune (01844) 351323

THANKSGIVING SCHWEIDER - John. A
Service of Thankegiving
for the life of John
Schneider will be held at
Holy Trinity Brompton,
Lendon SW7, at 2 pm on
Thursday, January 2 lat
1999, All welcome.

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- Sand Je Joseph

OBITUARIES

Naomi Mitchison, CBE, author, died herself who was serving in the Army in of Kintyre aged 101. She was born in Edinburgh on November 1, 1897.

aomi Mitchison, who lived almost right through the cen-tury, may justifiably be seen as one of its exemplary representanves. She was born a Victorian, and in a long and varied life she played many parts filling each moment to the brim-Naomi Mary Margaret Haldane came from a remarkable Scottish family. Her

uncle was R. B. Haldane (Lord Haldane of Cloan), the Liberal and then Labour. Lord Chancellor, her father was the physiologist and philosopher J. S. Hal-dane; her mother was the formidable hostess Kathleen Trotter, her brother (her first and greatest love) was the pioneering geneticist J. B. S. Haldane. She grew up in Oxford, where her father was a fellow of New College, and was educated at the Oxford Preparatory School (later the Dragon School), at home, and then at the Society of Oxford Home Students flater St Anne's College).
She showed promise in botany but was

never able to obtain any qualifications or practise any profession, though she studied widely and was particularly, impressed by the work of Jung and James Fraser. Brought up in a privileged but restricted background, she had difficulty freeing herself from dependence on her

parents and the conventions of her class.

But everything was changed by the
First World War. In 1915 she worked as a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital in London and the John Raddiffe Infirmary in Oxford, and in 1916 she married her brother's friend Gilbert Richard (Dick) Mitchison, a lawyer five years older than

on January II at her home on the Mull France. He was severely wounded in of Kintyre aged 101. She was born in action but she nursed him back to health: he began his career, and she began a family. After the war they lived in London, where he worked as a barrister and she worked as a mother but also as a

writer, and they formed the nucleus of a largely left-wing intellectual circle.

She was an active, early supporter of birth control — helping to run the North Kensington Clinic and speaking and writing on the subject — but joyfully, if painfully, she had seven children over 22 years. She suffered bitter loss; her first and form memoratic formelly the son died from meningitis (cruelly de-scribed in Aldous Huxley's Point Counter Point), and her last daughter died soon after birth (gently described in her memoirs). She also enjoyed sweet success: her other three sons became distinguished scientists — one introduced her to James Watson, and she helped to edit The Double Helix, which was dedicated to her Double Helix, which was dedicated to her and her other two daughters both became writers. She later had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and gave her recreation in Who's Who as "keeping up with the family" (later replaced by "surviving so far"). Her marriage was happy but not entirely satisfactory, despite help from the books of Marie Stopes, and both she and her husband entered into several other

her husband entered into several other relationships, which were conducted with dignity and described with humour. As the Second World War approached they moved to Carradale House in Kintyre, which became her base for the rest of her life, and where she farmed her land, entertained guests and took an active part in local and regional affairs.

. She was a radical in religion and politics; and went further than her ists, became vice-chairman of the non-

NAOMI MITCHISON

ه کذارمن رالامل

agnostic parents fil not as far as her brother's militant atheism) joining Rationalist Press Association, and becoming a director of the shortlived paper of scientific humanism. The Realist (1929). Her mother was a Conservative and her father a Liberal, and although she began as the former she moved through the (if nor as far as her brother's - militant communism). She supported the League of Nations Union and even-

tually joined the Labour Party and the Fabian Society. She was involved in the work of Tom Harrisson's Mass-Observation from its beginning in 1937. She supported the Popular Front but was never a fellow-traveller, and sometimes insisted that she was really a liberal or even an anarchist at heart. She stood unsuccessfully for the Sootish Universities seat in 1935, and scottish. Universities seat in 1935, and served on the Argyll County Council on and off from 1945 to 1965. She proved a loyal supporter of her husband as a Labour candidate from 1931, MP from 1945, and life peer from 1964 until his death in 1970 (though she characteristically refused to be called Lady Mitchison). She also supported the Scottish Nationalists, became vice-chairman of the non-



she supported the Authors' World Peace Appeal in the 1950s, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the 1960s, and the Greenham Common women in the 1980s. She became umpopular with some local people for her opposition to the nuclear submarine base in Holy Loch, not far from her home,

which brought employment to many.

Later in life she became unexpectedly involved in the politics of southern Africa. In 1963 she was invited by her friend Linchwe, who had become the chief of the Bakgatla tribe in Bechuanaland (later Botswana), to become his adoptive mother. She accepted the position of Tribal Mother with enthusiasm, putting into practice what she had written about, and went on visiting the tribe into her nineties. But Naomi Mitchison was best known

as a prolific and popular writer. During a literary career of seventy years she contributed thousands of articles and letters to scores of papers, and produced vention, and serbooks at a rate of more than one a year. She made her name with historical novels: The Conquered (1923), about the Roman conquest of Gaul, brought her appointment as Officier de l'Académie Française, The Corn King and the Spring Queen (1931), an ambioous treatment of cultural and sexual conflict in Ancient Greece and Scythia, earned admiration from both critics and readers, and The Bull Calves (1947) drew on her Scottish

> She also wrote poetry and drama, but was discouraged by the reaction of other poets and dramatists. She wrote biographies. She wrote modern fiction: We Have Been Warned (1935) was censored by her publishers and censured by the reviewers for its sexual and poliocal frankness, but stands as what she called a "historical novel about my own times". She edited factual symposiums: An Outline for Boys and Girls ond Their Parents (1932) became a secular bible for many progressive families, though What the Human Race is Up To (1962) was less successful. She wrote children's books and science fiction: Travel Light (1952) and Memoirs of o Spacewoman (1962) became classics. She wrote books about Scotland which contributed to the Scotlish literary renaissance, and books about Africa which were banned by the South African Govern-ment. She wrote practical philosophy: Socrates (1937, with R. H. S. Crossman) and The Moral Basis of Politics (1938) were both straightforward expositions of

the decent life. In later years she produced a series of

starting with documentary records -Vienna Diary (1934) — but more fully developed in Mucking Around (1980) and Among You Taking Notes (1985). There were also more impressionistic works such as Small Talk (1973). Taken together all these books form a remarkable account of her era. She was an active member of PEN and president of the

Saltire Society.
Naomi Mitchison was above all a feminist -- though she often repudiated the term — who fought hard in private and then in public for the right of herself and other women to take a full part in all aspects of private and public life. Her literary work was saturated with feminist considerations, though she never finished "The Intelligent Women's Guide Through Feminism" which she began in the 1930s. She was recognised by the later women's movement as one of its heroines. Several of her books were reprinted by feminist publishers, and this is probably how she

will be best remembered. She should also, however, be remembered for her living presence. She was an extrovert who exposed her weaknesses as well as her strengths to an often hostile public, a rationalist who suffered from nightmares and panics, wept as much as she laughed, and started physical as well as verbal fights, a humanist who sympa-thised with religion and ritual, a radical who turned down an OBE but accepted appointment as CBE in 1985, a reformer who always stressed "what people really want" and never forgot the importance of fun. She wrote near the end of her long life, "But the bright vision fades, always, always." — though she added, "We wait for a new wave of hope."

She leaves three sons, all Fellows of the books based on her diaries and letters. Royal Society, and two daughters.

BRIAN MOORE

Brian Moore, novelist, died in California on January II. aged 77. He was born in Belfast on August 25, 1921.

ew successful novelists are as little-known as-Brian Moore. A modest, retiring man, he made his name almost by stealth. There were no massive bestsellers, no headline-grabbing advances; just a steady stream of books, one every couple of years. Heedless of fashion, he wrote taut, wellcrafted, thoughful fictions, remarkable glimpses into unremarkable lives. They won him a reputation as "a writer's writer": Graham Greene once... called him his favourite living novelist: another admirer was Kingsley Amis. But readers liked him too, for few writer's writers have been as readable

as Moore. down. "I live in a sort of writing limbo," he once said. "No one seems able to place me." He moved easily between

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subjects and genres. His career began with pseudony-mous thrillers, and he later wrote the screenplay for Alfred Hitchcock's Torn Curtain. He remained a master of quiet suspense, able to render. unsettling the most humdrum scene. Some of his best works, such as The Colour of Money. shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1987, and Lies of Silence, shortlisted three years later, are nail-biting thrillers, however much else they might be besides. In life, as in his writing, be

was at once approachable and elusive. Witty, charming and unassuming, his only obvious vanity a fordness for handmade English suits, he was always happy to talk. But he relished the privacy of self-im-

an outsider. Having left his native Belfast in the Second World War, he never lived there again, taking Canadian citizenship before settling in California. Ireland and its

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conflicts were present in almost all his books, though he seldom wrote of them directly. His own background was republican and Catholic; both faiths were to fascinate him all posed eale. his life, but he subscribed to Wherever he was, he felt like neither. Belief and its absence, and the crises either may themes. "In nearly all my novels," he observed, "I'm interested in the point in a person's life where whatever it

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of the unsecoused creditions of the showe-manned company will be held to RDO Stoy Enymand, 5 leaker Street, Lendon wild LDA on 26 January 1999 at 11,00 has for the purpose of having a report lide be-fixed the meeting and of Senting any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Requirers. Creditions whose claims are wheely accurate me not entitled to attend or his remnanted.

Togethered No.

is that they wanted or believed in — ambition, political or religious belief — is suddenly taken away from them, and they are forced to re-examine their lives up till then."

Brian (pronounced "Bree-

an") Moore was the fourth child of a family of nine. His father was a surgeon, and a friend of Roger Casement. An uncle was the first commander-in-chief of the Irish Republi-can Brotherhood, forerunner of the IRA, and became Minister of Education in the Irish Free State. Two of Moore's brothers became doctors. He himself was educated at Catholic schools and then at St Malachi's College, Belfast. But he did not go on to university: war broke out, and he became an ARP first-aid worker and then a fireman during the air raids on Belfast. In 1943 he left for North Africa as a civilian ployee of the British Ministry of War Transport. From 1945 to 1947 he was in Poland with a UN economic mission. In 1947 he left for Canada

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NOTICE TO CHECKTORS OF THE ABOVE COMPANY On 37 December 1998, the above company was placed in members voluntary Hquiderien and Golf Gallem Red and Hqui Seven 27 of Sciencestering Coppers, No.

of Priorestations/Coopers, No. 1 Loudon Bridge, London SEL 9G were appointed joint liquidator

of Priovastimizene Coopers, No. 1. London Stidey, London Stil. 971. London Stidey, London Stil. 971. Were supposited joint liquidations by the star-sholder.

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and became a proof reader for the Montreal Gazette. He spoke of this as a time of uncertainty, and felt himself to have failed. The experience fed his fiction: he was always more interested in failure than success; it gave, he thought, "a more intense distillation" of a person's true self.

In 1955 he published Judith Hearne (before this he had published two thrillers as Michael Bryan; two more followed in 1956 and 1958). Called The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne in America, and later republished under that title in Britain, it was a sensitive study of an alcoholic old maid in Belfast who sees her last chance of love destroyed. It was notable for its compassion and its refusal to sentimentalise. It was the first of the intimate female portraits at which Moore was to excel.

Moore followed Judith Hearne with The Feast of · Lupercal (1957), about a shy schoolmaster. The Luck of Ginger Coffey (1960) had another failure as its subject an Irishman, in Montreal. Other books followed steadily, many drawing on Moore's own life, and some dealing explicitly with the problems of religious faith. Not all were equally well received, though the autobiographical The Em-

peror of Ice-Cream (1965) was praised for its restraint, and the sombre anti-clerical novella Catholics (1973) met with acclaim (except from the Church) and was later seen on British television in Moore's own adaptation. If Moore's themes remained constant, his later work

showed an increasingly wide range of settings and styles.
The Great Victorian Collection (1975) was a Californian fantasy of dreams come true. The Mangan Inheritance (1979) introduced an element of macabre romance to the story of a falled Irish poet. Black Robe (1983) was about a Jesuit missionary in 17th-century Quebec. The Colour of Blood (1987) was a Cold War thriller, Lies of Silence an equally gripping treatment of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland. No Other Life (1993) was a vivid study of tyranny, set in the Caribbean. The Magician's Wife (1997) deals with relations between Islam and the West. It was the nineteenth novel of his forty-

VEAT CATEET. Moore was twice married. His second wife Jean, whom he married in 1966, survives him with their son.

JIM PETERS

Jim Peters, marathon runner, died on January 9 aged 80. He was born on October 24, 1918.

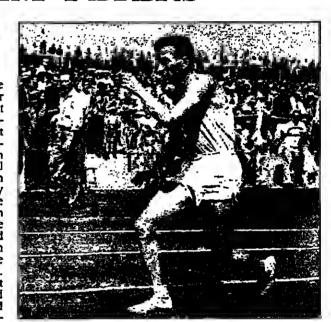
im Peters broke the marathon record four times in the 1950s, but will always be remembered most for one of the most dramatic and poignant fail-ures of modern athletics. Even younger and less sentimental sports followers wince when shown film of the Calvary endured by Peters in the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver in 1954, after he entered the stadium at the end of the marathon with an astonishing lead of some three

miles over the rest of the field. After setting his usual fast pace, despite the humidity and shade temperature of around 75F, the 35-year-old was suffer-ing from severe dehydration and began to stagger. He then fell more than half a dozen times, even crawling on all fours as he tried but failed to complete the last lap of the track to the finish.

"I was completely bewildered," he recalled, "but I just didn't want to disgrace my wife and kiddies. I kept falling down but I remembered from the Games' six miles lin which he had won a bronze medal that it was definitely cooker under the shadow of the big stand. As I staggered to my feet once more I tried to move to the shade. Then someone grabbed hold of me and 1 passed out. Later, in the dressing room, I became conscious for a few minutes and found a nurse bending over me. Did I win? I asked her anxiously.

She smiled down at me. You did very well," she said." For the rest of his life he was convinced that he had been robbed of the gold medal because, he argued, the course was nearly half a mile too long. Days before the race, Peters, his team manager and his England team-mate Stan Cox (who also failed to finish, after sunstroke caused him to collide with a lamp-post), had travelled the course by car and found it was nearly 27 miles.

Retiring from athletics after Vancouver, Peters unexpectedly received a Games gold medal on Christmas Eve 1954. inscribed from the Duke of Edinburgh: "As a token of admiration to a most gallant marathon runner." Just before his 80th birthday Peters, who had battled against cancer for several years, was touched to receive a letter of best wishes from the Duke.



Jim Peters staggering in the Vancouver marathon's last lap, which he could not finish despite his huge lead

Born at Homerton but then moving with his parents to Becontree, Jim Peters virtually had two separate athletics careers. The first began as a schoolboy footballer and cricketer in Essex, where he once took the wicket of a contemporary known as "Darkie" Alf

Though a junior mile champion of his county, Peters was deprived of the chance to develop in the sport by the outbreak of the Second World War, when he joined the RAMC. But when he was demobbed in 1945, with a wife and young child and work as a dispensing optician, he still wanted to run again. He went on to win the Essex cross-country title over seven miles and the county three miles on the track in 1946. Though an outsider, he then became the AAA six-miles champion at White City, winning by a wide

margin. He was AAA 10-miles champion in 1947, but in the 1948 Olympic 10,000 metres at Wembley he finished a disappointing ninth and might have retired. But on the train back from Wembley, his new coach, "Johnny" Johnston. pushed aside such thoughts. saying. "If you want to run in another Olympic Games, old boy, it will have to be in the

marathon." The partnership, involving daily training and speed ses-sions, both innovative at the time, was to transform internadonal marathon racing. Peters set a British best from Windsor to Chiswick in the Polytechnic Marathon in 1951 and, a year later, broke the all-time record by nearly five minutes. with a time of 2 hours 20 minutes 42.2 seconds.

He dropped out of the 1952 Helsinki Olympic marathon with severe cramp, but had his finest year in 1953. The winner of no fewer than four top-class marathons, he reduced the record twice more. Then with his fourth Polytechnic victory. in 1954, he stopped the watches at 2 hours 17 minutes 39.4 seconds which was to remain the world's best for the dis-

tance for four years. These feats must be put in perspective. Peters was an amateur who fitted his exhausting training around his career as an optician. He raced wearing simple Dunlop gym shoes. "Modern sport shoes are so expensive," he said recently, "that I could probably have only afforded one of them."

His upper body action was so unwieldy — he hummed Al Jolson to himself to cope with the tedium - that he has been called "the first rock'n'roll athlete". Race photos prove that sometimes his arm action across his body was so pronounced that his thumb nail driving across his chest caused it to bleed through his

running vest. Reflecting on his running in 1996, Peters said: "We were the good, old-fashioned amateurs but the modern, well-paid athletes, good luck to them all. still have our old spirit. When the gun sounds you go out there to kill or be killed." Jim Peters is survived by his wife Frieda, a daughter and a son.

WOMEN DRIVING TRAMWAY CARS

BY A CORRESPONDENT

I have been watching a woman driving a tramway car through Glasgow's most crowded streets. I did not know that they had "allowed" women to drive their cars in Glasgow, and so the sight took me by surprise. It suggested an experiment at first, and one is rather loth to be experimented upon. But after half an hour this idea vanished.

During the first few moments, I will conless, the arguments against employing women on work of this kind were unpleasantly obtrusive. I remembered that, according to rebable authorities, women are unfitted to cope with an emergency demanding rapid decisions. They lack the nervous force which is a man's reservoir of strength in the evil hour, they are apt to "lose their heads"; they tend to respond too violently to excitement. The car came to a standstill in a traffic block while I was turning

ON THIS DAY

January 13, 1916

Trains in the First World War: aeroplanes in the Second. No obstacle could stand in the way of the advancement of the gentler sex

over these ideas, and I was aware suddenly that this event had taken place in a manner so nicely regulated that there was no sort of jolt or jar. It had not been thus on a man-driven car I had ridden in a short time before.

The car started again, too, in most gentle fashion, as though it was learning good manners from its driver and was anxious to do her credit. Then, as we were running along a well-known thoroughfare, a taxicab shot out from a

side street just in front of the car. It looked for a moment as though something was bound to happen, and I saw several of the passengers casting anxious glances at the trim, green-clad figure on the other side of the glass door. The girl disappointed their fears: with a quick movement she cut off the power and applied the brakes. It was well judged, for without inflicting undue discomfort on its freight, the car slowed down just sufficiently to allow the taxicab to pass, and then seemed to get into its stride again almost automatically.

That incident banished the arguments against employing women as drivers. But it brought other thoughts to mind. This girl, clearly, was not only able to drive her car, she was an exceedingly good and careful driver. She was a better driver than many of the men in the same service, because she spared her passengers and her vehicle. Her mind and interest seemed to be in the business. There was no hurry or excitement about her handling of the car; on the contrary, she remained quite calm, though alert.



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Amman, Neeth SAIT LAX formarily of 10 Odd Furnace, Martyn, Sleeth Aged 73 years whe that on Pth Orlabe 1998. Would say relative of the above decement phease contact the undereigned before the home 1979 when they may here conscibling to their advantages (Alonga, Emercice, 133 Fastimal Drive, Ehon, Chester CH2 400. PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY: 1) King's College Hospi-tal Charleshie Tract; 2) St Thomes Hospital Charleshie Fond; 2) The Special Trustees of Cay's Hospital TELEGRACIE DC222881323071

The Country Commission has saide a Scheme to amend the trusts of these charities. A copy can be seen for the sent morth at 12 Google Square London EOAA 3DW (Reft ASE) or can be obtained by read-ing a craimped addressed envelope to NOIS Charities Section, Charity Commission, 2nd Proc., 20 Ning's

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Workfare testing for benefits

All benefit claimants, including the disabled and lone parents will be denied any state help unless they attend job interviews under radical reforms to be announced by the government today. All claimants of working age, except the disabled and lone parents will then have to take up a job offer or face losing their entire benefit under proposals which take Britain a step closer to American Workfare.

Rebels torch African capital

Hundreds of Ukrainian mercenaries are fighting alongside Sierra Leone's rebels who made good on their promise to burn Freetown to the ground and torched the power station, post office, town hall and UN headquarters, peacekeepers continued to try to drive out the rebels and claimed that they were conducting "mopping up operations".....

Kidnap trial

The leader of the Islamic kidnap gang who abducted 16 western tourists in a desert ambush is to go on trial for his life today in a court surrounded by high securi-

Porn block

Schools are to be offered a powerful screening system developed by American space scientists which blocks pupils' access to Internet pornography even in otherwise innocent documents and e-...Page l mail messages..

Inquiry ignored

The Health Secretary Frank Dobson ignored the findings of a damning public inquiry report to reprieve the secure hospital at the centre of a paedophilia and pornography scandal.....Page 2

Couple's letter

The couple on the run with their foster daughters have written an emotional fetter from an unknown address pleading to be allowed to adopt the girls.... Page 3

Erosion scare

The Government was told to act urgently to counter the danger of further coastal erosion, in the wake of the landslide at Beachy Head. Stretches of the east and south coasts could be the next to collapse as torrential rains and high waves continue to pound .. Page 6

Clarke's team

Two former government ministers - Kenneth Clarke and David Mellor --- are on the teamsheet for the FA Premier League in its court battle to stop football clubs negotiating TV deals Page 7

Labour wrath

The old Etonian former ambassador, Sir David Gore-Booth, mounted a robust defence after facing the wrath of two New Labour women MPs...

Landmine grants

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund handed over more than £1 million to 13 landmine

EU pressure

The European Commission was under pressure to sacrifice two of its members - Edith Cresson of France and Manuel Marin of Spain - as the price for averting a censure vote

New victim

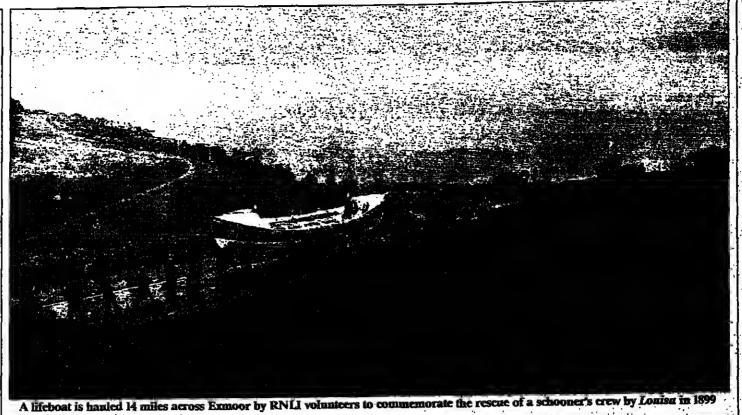
One of President Clinton's fiercest critics has became the latest victim of Larry Flynt, the pornogra-

Iraq attack

Amid growing tension in the Gulf an American F16 fighter fired on an Iraqi radar site in the northern no-fly zone, the sixth skirmish since the end of Operation Desert

Girl devises an internet code

An Irish girl was hailed as a mathematical genius after devising a new code for sending secret messages by computer. Sarah Flannery, 16 used the complicated science of cryptography to design a code ten times faster than the one currently used to convert confidential information so it can sent via the internet and



BUSINESS

Trade war: The US will ask the World Trade Organisation on January 25 to approve hefty sanctions against goods from the European Union in their long-running row ... Page 23

Hangover: A profits warnings from Allied Domecq, the Beefeater Gin and pubs group, saw more than £850 million wiped off its stock mar-..Page 23 ket value... Christmas cheer: Kingfisher, the re-

tail group, was one of few on the high street to enjoy some Christmas cheer, with a 3.2 per cent sales Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 51.40 to 6033.6. The pound fell 0.93 cents to \$1.6307 and 0.44p against the euro to 70.78p. The sterling index fell to 98.6, from 99.0....Page 26

Football: lan Wright, the West Ham and England striker, is likely to be absent for at least the next six weeks after collapsing in training and requiring surgery on an injured knee... Tennis: Greg Rusedski suffered his

ney International.....Page 44 Rugby union: For the second successive month the Rugby Football Union has been found guilty of breaches of International Rugby Board

second successive first-round de-

feat when he was beaten in three

sets by Gustavo Kuerten in the Syd-

regulations... Simon Barnes: With the retirement of Michael Jordan the question must be asked: will we ever see his like again? The chances are pretty .. Page 40

All grown up: Remember the malevolent nine-year-old Wednesday from the Addams films? Now Christina Ricci is a cynical 18-year-old with a new moviePage 34 Southern bells: The South Bank Centre undoubtedly needs a facelift but the plans to demolish the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room are causing

Page 34 Sister act: Julia Sawalha, Alison Steadman and Samantha Bond play three warring siblings in Shelagh Stephenson's tragi-comic The

Memory of Water Page 35 Dramatic renaissance: The transformation of New York's 42nd Street, once peopled by drug dealers and porn moviegoers, now the heart of theatreland Page 36

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ Brad Pitt as the

Forlani and life in

■ Paul Routledge's

biography of Peter

by John Grigg

Mandelson is reviewed

Meet Joe Black

character Death who

falls in love with Claire

FILMS

BOOKS

Monied kinides: The Marquess of Bristol was not the only heroin user with a vast inheritance...... Page 17 Joanna Coles: "It is 9.30am and I am already birth-classed-out. Youcannot have a baby in Manhattan without being builtied into attending dozens of classes. Maternity tours, interviews with obstetricians, prenatal and maternal fitness classes: I have obediently at-

Bugged: Can we ever win the war against super-bugs? Page 16 Nigel Hawkes: A breakthrough for treating blindness in old people and how tuberculosis can provide clues for historians and for South Seas anthropologists ____ Page 16

... Page 17

tended them all".....

Top site: One of London's great properties, 94 Piccadilly, known as the In and Out Club, is for sale. Have you £50 million? Page 30

Sierra Leone is the world's largest producer of human misery: The UN estimates that some 440,000. have fled across the borders. As the fighting intensified hundreds, of thousands abandoned their homes and joined the displaced. But what is worse is the terror. Rape and kidnapping have become commonplace - The Washington Post

Preview: Girl power in the animal kingdom: Battle of the Sexes (BBC2, 8pm) Review; Holby City paints a rosier picture of the NHSD than Frank Dobson has been managing Pages 42.43

In Europe's name

It is better that there should be a short crisis than a European Commission shorn of credibility. MRPs should block their ears and vote for censure.

Yemen and Finsbury

Whether or not the Finsbury mosque is running training camps. it is disturbing that London should have become a significant centre. for those calling for Islamic revolu-

Benefit of the doubt

Ministers will not find it easy to persuade the public that those who suffered during life in the Services are not more likely to endure deafness

SIMON JENKINS

Mr Blair makes John Major seem a Cicero and Mrs Thatcher a Demosthenes. I defy anyone to distil novelty from such waffle Page 18

BRONWEN MADDOX

Mr Clinton may have no self-restraint but he is undeniably tough. His response when attacked is to keep going____

ALAN COREN

Well, the good news is that you. may have 142 fewer days to drive yourself nuts at the prospect of Jap. uary 1, 2000

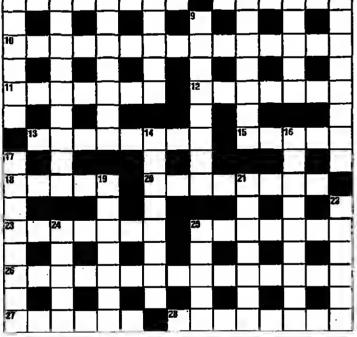
PETER RIDDELL

An answer would be to have an independent ethics commissioner who, with a small staff, would advise ministers and investigate any allegations of wrongdoing. Page 8

Naomi Mitchison, author, Brian Moore, movelist Jim Peters, marathon runner.....

High standards demanded of Rob. in Cook; origins of Paris; organ donors' consent. Blair and the Lib-Dems; mursing shortage; Beachy. Head cliff fall; Hendrix v Segovia; Union Jack's future _____Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,999



ACROSS

I In which contenders who've knocked out several others are matched (3,5). European city cut by conflict (6).

10 US government organisation, say, to retire workers ahead of time (5.10). 11 Being agreeable, welcoming bridge opponents in friendship

12 Island where I come ashore again? (7).

13 Space behind house that could do

for dray (8). 15 This board carries out each step by both spirit and letter (5). 18 Here received characters ending

life always? (5). 20 Rough ocean - it's liable to capsize one (8). 23 Fish that will quickly bite (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,998

ORTHODOX M E DREW

25 Learner winning at chess very quickly (7). 20 In which ads appear to offer busi-

ness opportunity (10.5).
27 Not oil, but different liquid applied to body (6).

28 He was willing to benefit others by his death (8).

DOWN 1 Person sharing the bill, getting fruit, mostly (2-4).

2 One on board making

er's position clear (5,4). 3 In dramatic epic, key equi used by mountaineer (3-4). 4 Starts off paper by foolishly copy-

ing others (5).
6 Old style of trade-off by company 7 City given another name when

8 Leave the field, having moderate result in match (8). 9 Herb and another fellow are in

14 A cold office in church - that's nice! (8). 16 Very rude about being broke (9).

17 Examination requiring no mental effort? (8). 19 Chief Superintendent somehow

putting up with Morse (7). 21 Show in the same place briefly interrupting former success (7).
22 Middleman financially ruined king (6).

24 Allow to enter commercial American university (5). 25 Narrow miss smoothly faced after this? (5).

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1909, Published and printed and decreard for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd. PO Box 495, Virgania Street, London El 98N, infe-shace 617-72 5000 and also printed at Kilding Raid, Preson. Mercevade, L34 94N, telephone 615-545 2000 Wednesday, January 13, 1909. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HOURS OF DARHOMESS

Sun sets: 4.17 pm





☐ General: England and Wales will start largely fine, but rain will soon reach the west and sweep across all areas during the morning and early afternoon. The rain will last a few hours before brighter weather

spreads from the west. spreads from the west.
Western Scotland and Northern Ireland
will be windy with rain and mountain-snow
in the moming, followed by sunshine and
squally showers this attempoon. Eastern

squally showers this atternoon. Eastern Scotland will start day and cold, but rain and hill-snow will quickly spread from the west, although steadily clearing in the afternoon. The Insh Republic will start wet and windy but become brighter with bussery showers. Tonight, Northern tretand and western Scotland will be cold and very windy with squally wintry showers, perhaps giving blizzards over the mountains. The rest of the UK will be mainly dry with evening showers becoming confined to western coests. A slight trost is likely in areas with shelter from the brisk wind.

The brisk ward.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midiands, E England, Channel Islands: a dry and bright start with a touch of frost, but cloud and rain will spread from the west, before it clears up again late in the day. A freshering southwest wind. Max 9C (48F).

Wildlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, a band of rain will sweep in from the west this morning, but it will become brighter with just a few showers in the afternoon.

Blustery southwest wind, Max 10C (50F) Bustery southwest wind. Mex 10C (50F).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Max, Central N England, NE England: a dry start but rain will quickly spread from the west, perhaps preceded by snow over the highest hills. The rain will give way to surnly intervals and a few showers during the afternoon. Blustery southwest wind. Max 7C (45F).

Barders, Edinburgh & Duncton, Abertal

Max 7C (45F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: rain and hill-snow will arrive later in the morning, but it will brighten up before the end of the afternoon. Strengthening SW wind with gales possible in north later. Max 6C (43F).

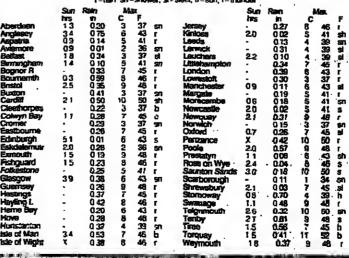
S W Scotland, Gleagow, Central High-lands, Argyl, NW Scotland, N Ireland: rain and hill-snow followed by squally winty showers. Strong to gale westerly wind. Max 7C (45F).

Ottmeev, Shelland: mostly ring at first

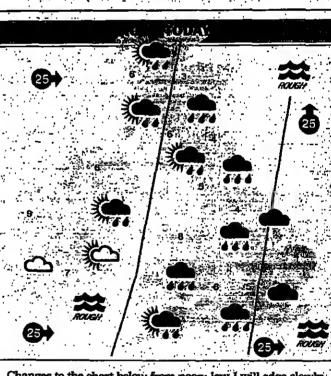
Orinney, Shetland: mostly dry at first, but rain will arrive leter in the moming and not clear until the early evening. Fresh southwest wind, becoming very strong later. Max 5C (41F). er. Max 5C (411).

Republic of Ireland: wet and windy morning, turning brighter with blustery showers during afternoon. Wind fresh or strong SW turning W. Max 11C (52F)

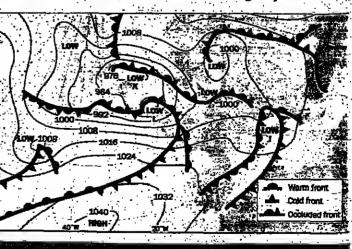
Cuttook: very unsettled and often winds with showers and longer spells of rain, espe-cially in the north, where it will be cold enough for snow over the hills.



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Changes to the chart below from noon; low I will edge slowly southeast and deepen slightly, while low K fills in situ. Meanwhile: low L will move northeast with little change in pressure.





Yesterday: highest day temp: Torquay (Devon) 11C (52F); lowest day max Scarborough (North Yorkshire) 1C (34F); highest rainfall; Capel Curig (Gwynedd) 1.31ins; highest sunshine: Edinburgh 5.1hours.

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INSIDE SECTION



ECONOMICS

Janet Bush says it is time to tear up Maastricht

PAGE 27

ARTS

How 42nd Street became the pride of New York **PAGES 34-36**



SPORT

Michael Jordan calls time on a great career **PAGES 37-44**

TELEVISION AND **RADIO Pages** 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999

Domecq's warning wipes off £850m

ALLIED DOMECQ, the Beefeater gin and Firkin pubs group, saw more than £850 million wiped from its stock market value yesterday after it issued a stark picture of trading in its

pub division. Its shares, which have performed strongly recently, closed 81/2p lower at 516p, cutting its market capitalisa-tion from £6.2 billion to less than £5.4 billion. Earlier in the day, they hit a low of 505p, equivalent to a drop of al-

The setback will increase pressure on the Allied board to find ways to re-store shareholder value, after the fail-ure of talks-about an alliance with Seagram, its Canadian rival.

Analysts reacted by cutting 1999 profit forecasts by an average of about 3 per cent. They are now expecting pre-tax profits of about £600 million in the year to September com-pared with £615 million last year. The culprit was pubs, where like-for-like sales are 2.5 per cent lower in

At yesterday's annual meeting. Sir and spirits business in the future. I christopher Hogg, the chamman, cannot speculate on any timing, but told shareholders. The impact of if there is a possible opportunity we eroding consumer confidence, first would look at it again." fied, particularly over the Christmas

Company sources indicated that while food sales in its Big Steak pubs had continued to rise, wet sales across its estate had declined dramatically. "Quite simply, people are not going into our pubs in such great numbers and when they do they respending less. But it's not just Allied.

i's an industry wide problem. However, some analysts reacted angrily, with one saying: This is like the Allied of the bad old days. While some of this is due to market conditions, you have to question how

management has responded to the

Another added: "Instead of just say ing that first-half profits would be lower and hoping for a hot summer to catch up, they admitted the full year would be down. Things must be bloody awful."

The news overshadowed strong sprits sales in the US and Europe and the £519 million sale last week of Cantrell & Cochrane, the Irish drinks distributor, which is expected to allow Allied to return up to £600 mil-

lion to shareholders.

The nosedive in Allied's shares—
which had rallied from 389½p since October — was all the more stark given the group's remarks on con-solidation. Despite recent comments from Seagram, its Canadian rival, that appeared to rule out a spirits merger with Allied, Sir Christopher hinted that a deal could still be

He said "It remains to be seen how Seagram will address its wine and spirits business in the future. I cannot speculate on any timing, but

day, dragging down other companies in the sector, with Bass diving 744p to 805p and Whitbread off 104p to 767%p ahead of today's scheduled trading update.

Shares in Old English Pub Company dropped 48p to 262/2p after it said that December's like-for-like sales declined by 2.9 per cent, partly because of the flu epidemic. However, Barry Warwick, chief executive, branded the drop as an over-reaction, adding: "The overall prospects for the future remain very bright".



US facing trade war with Japan and Europe

BY CARL MORTISHED AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

AMERICA faces a trade war on two fronts because of growing tension over steel imports from Japan and the failure yesterday to avert a collision with Europe over bananas.

Charlene Barshefsky, the US trade representative, yesterday gave warning that the US would take legal action if Japan failed to stem the tide of cheap steel entering the US. Ms Barshefsky bluntly ac-cused the Japanese of failing to act responsibly in reviving their economy and said: "It is no secret that trade tensions between the United States and Japan are increasing quite dra-

American anger with Japan will be further aggravated by signs that the Bank of Japan was intervening in the curren-cy markets, buying dollars in an effort to stop the rise of the yen. The dollar rose from Y108 to Y112 as the Bank of Japan attempted to prevent a strengthening yen from undermining Japan's efforts to export its

way out of recession. The warning given by Ms Barshefsky to Kaoor Yosano, Japan's Trade Minister, also coincided with a threat of sanc-Hayes, the US envoy to the World Trade Organisation, said the US would apply for authorisation to impose sanctions against European imports worth some \$568 million

(E359 million). The US will make its reguest to the WTO on January 27 despite agreement at the trade organisation to set up a dispute resolution panel, re-quested by Ecuador. The Latin American country was one of the original complainants in the six-year dispute over EU

quotas favouring Caribbean

Under WTO rules, the request for sanctions is unlikely to fail because a refusal must be unanimous and the US takes part in the decision. The US has already published a list of European goods it will target, which include more than £80 million of UK exports, including cashmere sweaters, potentially threaten-ing the struggling Scottish knitwear industry with the

loss of some 900 jobs. WTO experts believe that the US determination in pursuing sanctions over the bananas is an attempt to test Europe's commitment to the WTO rules. One said: "They are trying to prevent the EU from engaging in a continuous loop of litigation."

A US trade spokesman pointed to the outstanding dispute over the European ban on beef hormones. "The deadline for European compliance is on May 13." Failure to com-ply is likely to lead to more US threats of sanctions.

The steel row could also

cause Brussels and Washington to cross swords because to play its part in absorbing a flood of Asian exports. European steelmakers are already launching anti-dumping complaints about Asian producers.

The Bank of Japan would not confirm its intervention yesterday but it would be the first by financial authorities since Japan and the US sold dollars to support the yen last June. The last known dollar-buying intervention by the Bank of Japan was in February 1996.

Commentary, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

London closs \$289.75 (\$292.70) * denotes midday trading prices

Wembley signs stadium deal

WEMBLEY has signed the of the Football Association, so ending nearly nine months of speculation about its future (Jason Nissé writes).

The FA will now set about trying to raise £200 million to fund the redevelopment of the stadium. The sale was agreed in April, but it has been held up because three non-executive directors objected. They approached Enic, the investment company, which said it is prepared to make a £230 million bid for Wembley

Classic contest, page 27

Revenue approves 300 firms to sell Isa

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

MORE than 300 companies have been cleared to offer the individual savings account (Isa), despite the finan-cial services industry's intial misgivings about the via-bility of the scheme. The Inland Revenue re-

vealed yesterday that 300 es had received authorisation to offer Isas, the Government's replacement for personal equity plans (Peps) and tax-exempt special The high level of compa-nies gaining authorisation follows more than a year of

controversy about the accounts, which were unveiled at the end of 1997 by Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General. Companies claimed that the rules, and in particular a government-de-signed benchmark — the Cat standard - made the Isa economically unviable.

Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. said "This is good news. It means that savers will be able to choose from a very wide range of Isa providers and products when the Isa is launched on April 6."

Marks & Spencer, J Sains bury and Tesco were among those most critical of the Government's schemes. All three are now gearing up for the launch. M&S said yesterday that it was planning a big advernsing campaign for its Isa: However, the supermarkers will not be offering the Isa at the checkous as originally en-

Cooklin leaves Signet to take helm at Thorn

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

Jones were up 1.1 per cent in the three weeks to Christmas

Eve. At H Samuel they fell 2.4

per cent. In the US, where it

trades as Jared and Sterling.

like-for-like sales rose 10.6 per

cent in the same period. Signet

shares rose 34p to 394p.

LAURENCE COOKLIN, the that like for like sales at Ernest man who took over the run-ning of Burton Group after the departure of Sir Ralph Halpern, is leaving Signet, where he has been in charge of the Ernest Jones and H Samuel businesses for the past six years, to take the helm at Thorn. . . .

Thorn, which owns the Radio Rentals business, was bought by Nomura last year. after a dismal period as an independent company after its demerger from EMI. James McAdam, chairman

of Signet, will take day to day control of the group's British businesses while the company looks for a replacement UK chief executive. Signet, which is also listed on Nasdaq, now has most of its operations in the US and said that a strong performance there should mean that pre-tax profits for the year to January 30 will be ahead of expectations.

The group said yesterday

AXA puts in offer for GRE

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

GUARDIAN Royal Ex-change (GRE), the embattled composite insurer, has re-ceived an informal approach from AXA, the French insurer, valuing the company at about

AXA, which owns Sun Life in the UK, has not tabled the offer formally. The board of GRE, led by John Robins, chief executive, is understood to have asked AXA to raise the offer. GRE is seeking closer to 500p a share.

Shares in GRE, which has a market capitalisation of al-most £3 billion, closed Ip higher at 337p yesterday after four million shares changed hands. The insurer said last month it was considering a number of options for its future.

It has also emerged that Peter Owen, chief executive of

PPP, has been appointed heir

apparent to Mr Robins, who

is not expected to continue at GRE in the long term. GRE declined to comment on whether the company had

A Christmas cracker for Kingfisher

By Sarah Cunningham

KINGFISHER. group, yesterday declared the high street to have been the winner at Christmas. Its high street chains, Woolworths and Superdrug outperformed Com-et and B&Q, which are mainly in out-of-town retail parks. In the nine weeks to Janu-

ary 2, group like-for-like sales grew by 32 per cent. Woolvorths and Superdrug, which are heavily dependent on Christmas sales, had like-forlike growth of 5.2 per cent and

per cent, respectively. B&Q, the DIY business, and Comet, the electricals superstore chain, fared less well. B&Q saw like-for-like sales rise 0.6 per cent, while Cornet sales were down 0.9 per cent. Darty, the French electricals business, had like-for-like sales growth of 2 per cent. Total sales for the group, which has just completed the merger of B&Q with its French

equivalent. Castorama, were

from £1.61 billion. This was after growth from acquisitions and new stores as well as likefor-like growth. Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, said: "Customers were careful with their money

in the run-up to Christmas. but overall we are pleased with the group's performance, which leaves us well placed to meet our targets for the year." Matalan, another retailer emphasising value for money, yesterday reported strong Christmas trading. In the five weeks to January 2, like-forlike sales rose by 11.4 per cent. Matalan said that annual prerax profits, to be announced in March, will be not less than £23 million, which is well above current City forecasts.

Kingfisher's shares fell 25p to 6241/p yesterday. Matalan's rose 17p to 3691/2p.

Tempus, page 26

Incorrect tax bills sent to 800,000

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

THE Inland Revenue has sent out incorrect income tax bills to 800,000

self-employed people. The errors on self-assessment state ments of account led the unfortunate recipients to believe that they had to

with calls from anxious clients fearing payment system under self-assess make payments on account for the

pay twice as much as they had been ex-

payment deadline is January 31.

Chris Humphrey, a tax consultant from Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, ralled the blunder a "scandal". One of his clients who had anticipated a bill of about £1,200 had received a statement giving a figure of £2,400.

Many of the self-employed are al-

that they might not be able to meet ment. For the first time they are being these liabilities. The self-assessment taxed on current year earnings, rather than the previous year's as under the old system. On January 31, thousands will be paying not only the remaining tax for 1997-98 but also the first instalment of tax owing for 1998-99.

Admitting its mistake yesterday, the Revenue explained that the wrong figures appeared on statements sent to ready reeling from the change to the those self-employed who were due to

1998-99 tax year. These payments are due on January 31 and July 31. The second payment has inadvertently been included and is shown without a

The Revenue promised that it would be writing to taxpayers and their advisers to clarify the situation. Anyone still unable to calculate what amount to pay should contact their local tax office or the self-assessment



Vickers and Giat in talks

Vickers, the engineering group, has confirmed it is in talks with Giat Industries, a French defence group, aimed at forming a joint venture company for supplying land defence equipment The memorandum of intent signed vesterday between the two companies is a further step in the consolidation of the European land defence industry.

The alliance will initially cover functions such as sales and research, and will not include pooling manufacturing facilities. The joint venture would

not cover Vickers's Challenger 2 tank and Giat's Leclerc tank, which are in direct competition.

Amec trading holds up

Amec. the engineering and construction group, yesterday sought to reassure the City that its trading was holding up and order books were steady. It told the market that trading was in line with expectations - despite "general uncertainties" in the UK economy - ahead of the publication of its results on March tl.

Peter Mason, chief execulive, told analysts that prospects had been brightened by its £80 million contract for a section of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, its preferred bidder status for the E70 million West Anglia and North Thames rail infrastructure maintenance contract and a E75 million order for Southern Water.

Cortecs closure

Cortecs, the troubled drug development company, is making 75 staff redundant and closing its Isleworth, west London, head office. Shares in Cortecs rose 40 per cent to 26p yesterday. More than 9.2 million shares were traded, reflecting interest sparked by Nomura International's acquisition of a stake of more than 6 per cent.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia S	2.65	2.47
Austria Sch	20.50	18.84
Belgium Fr	60.34	55.38
Canada S	2.583	2.395
Cyprus Cyp E	0.6665	0.7950
Dermark M	11.13	10.24
Egypt	5.76	5.15
Finland Mkk	8.97	6.22
France Fr	9.76	8.98
Germany Dm	2.934	2.693
Greece Dr	485	446
Hong Kong S	13.47	12.27
lostand	126	106
Indonesia	16835	21935
Ireland Pt	1.1703	1.0613
Israel Shk	6.98	6.32
Italy Lira	2917	2680
Japan Yen	198.16	180.63
Malta	0.658	0.599
Netherlds Gld	3.313	3.018
New Zealand 5	3.14	2.90
Norway Kr	12.80	11.86
Portugal Esc	296.61	274,58
S Africa Rd	10.47	9.51
Spain Pra	247.22	228.44
Sweden Kr	13.70	12.60
Switzerland Fr	2.429	2.211
Turkey Lira	542543	506481
USA S	1.738	1.595

Manufacturing woes raise hopes of European rate cut

AND ADAM SAGE

GERMANY suffered an unexpectedly sharp contraction in industrial output in November while French inflation slipped to a 44-year low last year, raising hopes of an early cut in European interest rates.

The weak manufacturing outlook was further backed up by a separate report showing manufacturing activity across the euro zone declining for the third consecutive month in

However, European consumer confidence rose to a ten-year

MORGAN Stanley Dean Witter

has become the first American in-

vestment bank to top the UK

mergers and acquisitions table

after advising on deals worth

Schroders came a close sec-

ond with 28 transactions val-

ued at £18.3 billion, while La-

zards, last year's winner, slipped to fourth behind Gold-

man Sachs, the Wall Street

partnership that shelved its

David Rothnie, editor of Ac-

quisitions Monthly, the maga-

zine that compiles the league

tables, said it had been a

record year for M&A activity.

The total value of UK public

deals hit £90 billion, smashing

the previous record of £67.7 bil-

He said: "The most remarka-

ble aspect of 1998 was the

sheer volume of activity, com-

ing as it did in a year of eco-

nomic turbulence, with banks

adopting a cautious approach

to funding buyouts and IPOs

during the third quarter. Nev-

ertheless, a strong final quar-ter meant UK M&A activity

broke all records."

lion in 1**99**5.

own flotation last autumn.

more than £19 billion in 1998.

Morgan tops

UK mergers

league table

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

high providing one bright spot amid a string of otherwise

Germany, Europe's largest economy, recorded a 23 per cent fall in industrial output, about three times more than the market expected. The manufacturing element of the data showed an even sharper fall, registering a decline of 2.4 per cent. Economists said the figures were so weak that the German economy as a whole is likely to show a contraction across the fourth quarter.

The separate euro zone purchasing managers index stood 46.9 in December, down

The ascendancy of Morgan

Stanley, said Mr Rothnie,

demonstrated that some US

banks now have an estab-

lished reputation for provid-

ing quality advice on UK pub-

lic transactions. During the

year, the bank worked on two

multibillion-pound deals for

The Energy Group, as well as

GA's merger with Commer-

league by number of transac-

tions, which included the pitched battle between Argos

and Great Universal Stores,

and the acquisition of Allied

Colloids by white knight Ciba

Speciality Chemcials. Other

deals included the GA/CU

merger and Nomura's pur-

Credit Suisse First Boston, a

new entry at number six, after

its £100 million acquisition of

BZW's equities and corporate

advisory businesses at the

end of 1997. Barings, winner in both 1996 and 1995, contin-

ues to slide down the league

table, slipping two positions to fifteenth.

Most improved bank was

topped

Schroders

chase of Thorn.

pointing to a further decline in activity. Inflation pressures remained almost non-existent. with the cost of raw materials and semi-manufactured goods

Dr Frank Schröder, German economist at HSBC Trinkaus. said: "Given the weakening industrial picture throughout euroland, we expect the European Central Bank to cut the repo rate by a quarter point in

Analysts also turned up the pressure on the ECB for an interest rate cut by pointing to evidence that other measures of

Ellis & Everard, the chemicals

distributor, where Peter Wood.

above, is chief executive, saw

pre-tax profits in the half year

inflation remain subdued across Europe.

Consumer inflation France, with prices rising at an annual rate of just 0.3 per cent, sparked fears of a deflationary spiral in the heart of

the euro zone.

siderably.

The French Government yesterday announced the virtual price stability in triumphant tones, pointing out that with growth of 3.1 per cent last year. the spending power of French households had improved con-

Statisticians said the last time France had an inflation lower than last year's was in 1953,

when prices slumped by 2.3 per cent, provoking a period of social and political instability. Deflation at the wholesale level also gathered pace in Spain, with prices falling 2.1 per cent in the year to November after a 1.8 per cent decline the month before.

However, Eurostat, the European Commission's statistical office, said euro zone consumer confidence rose to its highest level since early 1990. Consumers are showing a positive attitude towards large purchases and a more optimistic approach to the general eco-

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

FINANCIAL advisers were

newspaper company.

Trinity, whose titles include the Daily Post in Liverpool and the Belfast Telegraph, withdrew on Sunday and said that it has no intention of making the first move. The Mirror board also said that it does not intend to approach Trinity. It is believed that there were no contacts between the two groups.

about the strategic potential of a Trinity-Mirror merger, wanted to hold a "post mortem" and inquire whether a deal was still possible: But for the moment at least the chances seem less likely. Mirror shares rose 3p-to 169p. Trinity rose 10%p to 439p. Any deal would trigger a

Trinity and Mirror proposal deadlocked

MEDIA EDITOR

yesterday unable to break the deadlock in merger talks between Mirror Group and Trinity, the UK's largest regional

yesterday, formal or otherwise.

Senior Mirror executives met sterday with Philips & Drew Fund Management (PDFM), which holds a 22 per cent stake in the company...
PDFM, which is enthusiastic

Monopolies and Mergers Commissioo investigation which could last up to eight months.

Bullough aims to make acquisitions

BULLOUGH, the engineering, heating and office furniture company, plans to make several acquisitions to strengthen its specialist engineering businesses in the face of "worsening market conditions". The company, which last year sold three of its refrigeration businesses for El6 million, said that it would also use the cash raised from its disposal programme to increase organic investment and to repurchase shares.

The company was reporting a rise in profits from its continuing operations in the year to October 31 to £19.4 million, from £19.1 million, on turnover up II per cent to £203 million (£184 million). Pre-tax profits before exceptionals fell to £18.3 million (£19.0 million). An unchanged 4.51p final dividend keeps the total at 5.8p. Gordon Bond, chief executive. said: The current year will be a difficult one if current economic conditions are anything to go by, and we are respond-ing accordingly. We are simply playing to our strengths."

Savills raises earnings

SAVILLS, the property agency, reported a 28 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax earnings to E5.2 million. Although the results were in line with expectations, the company's shares slipped on to IITp. A collapse in the share price in the summer is believed to have prompted First Pacific Davies, a shareholder, to line up a takeover bid. FDP, however, cannot acquire more of the stock until April because of a standstill clause in a partnership agreement. The interior dividend rises 40 per cent to 1.75p. Tempus, page 26

Rentokil spends £37m

RENTOKIL INITIAL, the business services company, yesterday announced eight acquisitions for a total of £37 million. The purchases include two textile services businesses. Adrett in Germany and BTMF in France, and the Initial Staffing franchisee in Cincinnati in the US. Five security businesses have also been acquired: Crime Halt Security Systems, Wol-sey Comcare Alarm Systems and Capstan, all in the UK, Alert Security Systems in The Netherlands, and Minion Manned Guarding in Alberta, Canada.

WYKO warning

WYKO, the engineering group, reported increased profits yes-terday but gave warning that "demand has become more er-ractic". The group lifted pre-tax profits to £6.2 million for the half year to October 31, from \$5.9 million last time. Philio White, chairman, said: "If the pre-Christmas level of demand does continue into the new year, profits in the second half will be adversely affected and are then unlikely to match the first half performance." Earnings per share were 6.4lp (6 lp) and an interim dividend of 1.8p (1.65p) was declared:

Dudley Jenkins rises

SHARES in Dudley Jenkins, the direct mail supplies group, rose nearly 14 per cent after the company announced it was at an "advanced stage" of takeover talks. The company said that any offer would be at 580p per share, a premium of 18 per cent to Monday's closing price of 492kp. In July, the group reported full-year pre-tax profits of £3.63 million (£2.65 million) on turnover of £23.13 million. Tylan Bahcheli, chairman, views 1999 with "cautious optimism". The shares, which have risen from a low of 312p in October, yesterday closed up 674p at 560p.

Bespak shares fall

SHARES of Bespak fell 68kp to 917kp yesterday after the medical devices manufacturer said that the decline in sales of valves for its CFC inhalers would be "greater than originally anticipated" and would offset growth in other areas. Inhaler valves provide about 45 per cent of group sales worldwide. The warning ame as Bespak announced record first-half profits of £7 mil lion for the six months to October 30, up from £6.6 million, on sales of £41.9 million (£42.3 million). Earnings per share were 20.3p (18.9p) and the interim dividend is 5.6p (5.1p).

Aggregate optimism

AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES, the quarrying group that recently pulled out of a £1.8 billion merger with Tarmac, the construction group, yesterday said trading had been rock-solid to the end of last year. In a trading update, AI said that it had produced savings of £13 million a year since its formation as a result of a merger between Bardon and Camas in 1997. Most of the improved results came from the US, with strong demand reported in all markets. Favourable weather in the US extended AI's working season. AI shares remained at 69p.

Manchester

Plymouth ...

Stoke on Trent

Swansea

Swindon

Teesside

Taunton:

Wakefield

Washington

Rugby/Northampton

-Warrington/Runcom

Newcastle upon Tyne

FIRST LEISURE yesterday admitted that it was discussing "a number of strategic alternatives' with third parties, sparking a fresh round of takeover speculation in the leisure sector.

There have been suggestions that Luminar, the nightclub and theme bar operator, or even Rank Group might be eyeing First Leisure. However, analysts were last night strongly tipping Luminar to make a move on Northern Leisure, the rival nightclub group.

First Leisure, which was forced to make a statement by the Takeover Panel after a sharp rise in its share price on Monday, said its talks were "at a very exploratory stage", adding: "It is therefore too soon to predict whether they will result in any agreement at all."

Observers believe Michael Grade, chief executive, is seeking a deal in a bid to revive the group's ailing share price. Over the summer it slumped from 43644p to 16044p. Its rise this week to 224p is largely based on hopes of a bid.

But observers believe the tone of yesterday's statement indicates that a takeover of, or by. First Leisure is onlikely. One said: "What you might see is some sort of strategic alliance or joint venture with the likes of Vardon on the health and fitness side."

First Leisure in talks Gold price tarnished

Tempus, page 26

to October 31 improve 3 per

cent to £17 million. The interim

dividend rises 3 per cent to 3.6p

THE gold market is heading for a year of stagnation after suffering the lowest average annual price in two decades. A combination of weak demand, sales from central banks and falling costs of production has per-suaded Gold Field Mineral Services (GSMS), the commodity researchers, that the gold price will remain stuck in a range of between \$270 and \$310

per ounce. GFMS said yesterday that the aver-age gold price for 1998 was \$294 per ounce, the lowest for 20 years. Paul Walker, spokesman for GFMS, said that gold was becoming commoditised

and losing its status as a hedge against inflation, as investors sought greater security in dollars and US government bonds. According to GFMS, currency weakness resulted in 1,000 tonnes of gold flowing into the market from In-donesia, Korea and Thailand, as peo-ple turned their jewellery into cash.

The average cash cost worldwide of producing an ounce of gold fell by \$50 to less than \$200 from the third quarter in 1997 to that of 1998-"It's a phenomenal fall; most mines will continue producing as long as they can cover their operating costs," Mr Walker

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Aberdeen

Basingstoke

Birmingham

Brighouse

Cardiff City

Colchester

Coventry

Cardiff

Carlisle

Birmingham Airport

Birmingham City

Ashford

Glasgow Airport Guildford Haydock Hemel Hempstead

Croydon

Epping .

Fareham

Gloucester

Ipswich

Lancaster

Derby/Burton

Glasgow Ersking

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Edinburgh

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Norwich **Nottingham City** Nottingham/Derby Preston Reading. Rochester_ South Mimms Southampton Southampton/Eastleigh

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Y Ker warning

f there is any rival out there who believes that BTR and Siebe should not be joined to gether, he is keeping his peace on-til the very last moment. Despite investor hopes that more gener-ous souls than Lord Marshall and Allan Yurko might decide to

ride to Ian Strachan's rescue, the weeks have ticked by without a sign of a company prepared to put a higher value on BTR than Mr Strachan himself has done. So today shareholders will almost certainly vote through the deal, although in a spirit more of resigna-Yet the challenge that those two companies faced in marketing their proposed marriage are as nothing compared with the problems that lie ahead for Lasmond Enterprise Oil 16 percent

mo and Enterprise Oil. If news of their flirting has met with a scep tical response, it is hardly surprising, since their previous encoun-ter was in a bid which fully lived up to its designation as "hostile". Times, and the oil price, change and so, force majeure, do relationships. But the two companies might have had a better chance of convincing the market of the merits of a get-together had the idea not leaked extremely prematurely. The ensuing speculation as to who would constitute the top. team in the combined operation was hardly guaranteed to foster a new spirit of friendliness between

Yet the potential value in putting the two companies togeth-

An Enterprise worth exploring

er does ment giving them the chance to explore the idea in some depth. They could prove tobe surprisingly compatible.

Both companies are already embarked on cost cutting exercises, necessarily more drastic at Lasmo than at Enterprise, so there will be only limited scope to cut still further after a merger. A decision to est completely, rather than merely scale back, Enterprise's presence in lavish Trafalgar Square offices might, however, be judged a sensitive move.

There could be more positive aspects, however, to rolling the two exploration and production companies into one With Lasmo facing some hefty write-offs, blamed on investments made be-fore the sensible Joe Darby took over the reins, there are fears that the company could be forced into selling some assets into a desperately mean marketplace. As part of a financially stronger en-terprise, painful forced sales could be avoided. And together the companies might find they could offer investors a portfolio with a more reassuring balance of geographic and financial risks and future profit prospects than



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

convincing to the companies themselves, they will face the themselves, they will take the tricky question of who will run the show. More immediately appealing link-tups have foundered on a few people's job prospects. The snave Rudolph Agnew is big enough to happily move onto the next challenge, allowing Sir Graham Hearne to chair the pairing. But neither Pierre Jungels nor Joe Darby deserve to be cast in the Ian Strachan role.

Charlene may yet drive us bananas

ow deeply is the United States committed to free trade? Absolutely, every blue-blooded American would say. Let's hope so. The open trading system depends on that American commitment in the face of age old protectionist tendencies in continental Europe. ifher can alone. Over the next two years, how Its trade gap will reach ever high-If those arguments do prove ever, that commitment will face a er records as Asia relies on ex-

severe test. It will certainly be the toughest since the high-dollar era of the mid1980s, possibly the most stressful since the postwar Bretton Woods accord. The only reason the world econ-

omy has not followed Japan, Rus-

sia and the Asian "tigers" into re-

cession is that American consum-ers are holding it up. They are still spending like there is a tomorrow that they can rely on. Asia is not importing much. Countries tend not to if, as in Indonesia, your currency retains only a quarter of its exchange value of 18 months ago or if, as in Japan, your economy has scarcely grown in a decade. Even Brazil is

goods industry is in trouble. Not surprisingly, the US trade deficit is growing by leaps and bounds. It has to if the rest of the world economy is to recover before the US tires of the burden.

Sears to

sell credit

card firm

SEARS will today attempt to spike the guns of Philip Green, the entrepreneur lay-

rah Cunningham writes).

poor Christmas trading state-

ment - is expected to be for

Analysts believe that Free-

mans, its catalogue busi-ness has been trading partie-

ularly poorly.

Mr Green, who is believed to have lined up buyers for

Creation and Freemans, will

decide on his next move after

seeing the Sears trading state-ment. His last conditional of-

fer for Sears — before Christ-mas — was of 340p a share,

but was rejected. Sears shares

closed down 31/sp at 285//sp.

more than £120 million.

undergoing a medicinal squeeze. No wonder the German capital

port-led growth to get its economies moving again. The US and the European Union may have instructed the rest to rely on inter-nal recovery, but no one ever thought they could.

American industry will still

complain ever more bitterly as it sees exports dry up and imports eat into existing markets as well as feeding increases in US domestic demand and those complaints will carry weight with a weak-ened President. Next year, look-ing after American industry will be the stuff of campaigns to elect a new President.

How depressing, then, that the US should be stepping the rheto-ric up to fever pitch already. In Tokyo yesterday, US Trade Representative Charlene Barsheisky threatened Japan with "punitive sanctions" unless it took action over steel exports and much else. In Geneva, US trade ambassador Rita Hayes said the US would go ahead with sanctions forcing 100 per cent tariffs on

\$500 million of imports from the EU in the endless banana dis-pute, where US policy is guided by the former United Fruit

This courtroom hype is for do-mestic ears. It is also the sort of diplomacy that ends in war. Right now, a trade war is not what the world economy needs.

Two halves please, barman

an it be that they do not go near such places them-selves? Analysts appear to have been more than a little surprised to hear of the dismal sales performance at Allied Domeco pubs, hence they had not seen yesterday's profits warning coming. Yet back in October, Allied was sounding anything but optimistic about the prospects for the busi-ness, cutting back investment plans and warning of the effects of increased competition. What has been happening in the real economy, rather than the stock market, since then may have encouraged the man in the street to drown his sorrows, but he may have opted to do so more cheaply

at home than in his local.
Allied increasingly looks like a

business of two halves, one potentially swift and one a laggard. Seeing approaching £1 billion wiped off their investment can only encourage investors to push harder for the demerger that they have long been hoping Sir Christopher Hogg would insti-gate. He has recently seemed to be warming to the idea.

Allied's international drinks business has performed remarka-bly well, considering the state of

world markets. That the long discussed possibility of a close link with Seagram has been publicly shelved by the Canadians is not the disaster that it might have seemed a couple of years ago. Al-lied also has a stable of strong retail brands. The pub trade still has its afficionados. Allied should ask them in for a friendly drink immediately.

Style and substance

MONSIEUR Bernard Arnault? approach to the business game combines the tactics of a chess player with the occasional tan-trums of the tennis court. His former boardroom colleagues at Guinness speak fondly of his contribution to Anglo-French relations, which at one stage threat-ened to block the merger with Grand Metropolitan to create Diageo. Even they would have to admire the way in which he is now tying both Gucci and Prada more tightly into his DFS shop-ping empire: a truly stylish deal.

JJB issues profits warning

JJB SPORTS, the sports retailer, yesterday issued a profits warning after disastrons Christmas trading by Sports Division, the business it bought last year (Sarah Cunningham writes.

JJB, whose shares fell 13

per cent to 249p in response, is calling a shareholders' meeting next month to seek consent to buy back its shares. It will buy up to 5 per cent this year if the price stays low. In the seven weeks to

January 9, Sports Divi-sion's like-for-like sales, stripping out new stores, fell 16 per cent. For the 49 weeks to that date, they fell 11 per cent. Stores trading as IJB fared far better, managing a like for like sales increase of 7.4 per cent over the Christmas weeks, and a 0.3 per cent in-

Arjo gets set for three-way split

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

ARJO Wiggins Appleton, the Anglo-French paper business, has effectively put a "for sale" sign on itself and removed its chief executive after announcing plans to repackage its sprawling empire into three independent divisions.

Ken Minton, Arjo's chair-man, said that Philippe Beylier would leave the group because a chief executive would not be needed under the new structure.

Mr Minton, who is taking on the role of executive chairman, said that Arjo would be left with three distinct businesses with little synergy between them: carbonless and thermal paper; fine, speciality and control paper; and paper merchanting. Mr Minton said that the

nesses separately to enhance shareholder value, He said: "I have no doubt that the sum of the parts can be demonstrated to be substantially greater than the whole."

He said that a sale, a demerger or a flotation were likely options, but he doubted that any of the businesses would be suitable for a management buyout. "We will look at the various options when it is right to do so," he said.

Shares in the paper group rose from 109% to 115p after news of the possible break-up. Mr Minton insisted that the result for 1998 would be in line with expectations and that there were no plans for large restructuring charges. He said: There is no black hole.

M Beylier will receive compensation of about £830,000 based on a two-year service

Arjo has been a disastrous investment for its shareholders, having almost halved in value since the merger that formed the group in 1991, when it was worth £2 billion. Mr Minton confirmed that at least £1.5 billion had been invested in the business since then, but, even after yesterday's share price boost, the company had a market value of just under £1 billion.

Arjo has previously tried to shed its carbonless paper operation. One analyst said: In this business, it may be difficult to turn off all the lights and go bome."

Arnault raises Gucci stake in deal with Prada

BY FRASER NELSON

ing siege to the troubled retailer, by announcing the sale of its credit eard business (Sa-BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has agreed a secret deal with Prada whereby his company will acquire the Italian fashion house's 9.5 The sale of Creation Financial Services—the announce-ment of which will accomper cent stake in Gucci (See pany what is expected to be a

Commentary, this page).

Prada has agreed to sell for an undisclosed amount believed to be about £200 million - 20 per cent below market value. This gives LVMH a 14.4 per cent stake in Gucci.

In return M Arnault will sell Prada clothes through DFS, its Far East network of shopping arcades, on similar terms to those of LVMH's own labels, which include Christian Dior and Kenzo.

The deal leaves LVMH with greater control over both its Italan rivals, becoming one of Prada's largest distributors and

M Arnault now has ten days to decide whether to make a formal bid for Gucci. However, shares of both companies fell yesterday on the expectation that M Amault will now lie low and enjoy the new flow of inter-nal Gueri trading information. Analysts believe that M Ar-

nault sees Gucci and Prada as the salvation of DFS, a network of Far Eastern airport fashion arcades that he bought just before the economic crisis two years ago. M Arnault believes the economy is about to rebound, and that DFS commands most of the

sites where Gucci and Prada would wish to expand. LVMH generates 40 per cent of its sales from the Far East. Gueri generates 38 per cent and Prada about 35 per cent. Gucci

Boost for HMV Media

HMV MEDIA, owner of and HMV music shops. looks to be heading for an early flotation (Sarah Cun-

ningham writes). The group, whose chair-man is Tim Waterstone, envisaged a float within 18 to 36 months when it was formed in March 1998. Alan Giles, HMV chief executive. who ran Waterstone's when WH Smith owned it, said that a "heartening Christmas performance" had aided flotation prospects. He would not rule out a float before antimn. Comparable store sales rose 4.9 per cent over Christmas. To the company's second

quarter, to October 24. operating profit rose £10.5 million to £14.6 million. Finance charges of £33 million led to a first-half loss of £16.1 million.

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£50,000 - £199,999	6.53	5.22	634	5.07		
£200,000 - £499,999	6.56	5.25	6.37	5.10		
£500,000-£999,999	6.61	529	6.42	5.B		
£1,000,000+	6.78	5.42	658	5.26		

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£50,000 - £199,999	6.03	4.82	5.87	4.70	
£200,000-£499,999	6.06	4.85	5.90	4.72	
£500,000-£999,999	.6JO	4.88	594	4.75	
£1,000,000+	6.20	4.96	6.03	4.82	



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lith the new Virgin Business licket you don't claim expenses because there aren't am. r ticket includes a complimentary breakfast, generous snacks, hot; cold and alcoholic drinks and a Zone 1 tube pass if you're travelling into London. Don't every leave your seat. Just sit back and enjoy the ride in a mallet-free zone.



Blue chip shares fall as investors return to basics

SOME of the speculative froth was blown off share values as City investors switched their focus of attention back to fundamentals. The profits warning from drinks giant Allied Domecq. down 814p at 516p. has left a nasty taste in their mouths and cast doubts on the ability of blue chip stocks to achieve the same rate of returns as in the past.

This, combined with open-ing losses on Wall Street, saw London reverse its early gains. The FTSE 100 index, up 55.3 points at one stage, eventually closed down 51.4 at 6,033.6. Turnover topped more than 1.2 billion shares, while the FTSE 250 index ended just 4.9 down at 4,977.1.

Heavy turnover was recorded in BP Amoco, up 17kp at 9061:p (33 million shares); Billiton, up 3xp at 122p (27.9 million); Shell, *p easier at 349p (24.8 million); and BTR, *p cheaper at 116%p (17.49 million).

Positive comments from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell lifted Tesco 914p to 1851/2p (32.4 million shares). The broker has moved from "neutral" to "outperform" and claims the shares remain the most attractive play in the food retail sector.

The comments from DMG about Tesco come hard on the heels of a positive report from Credit Lyonnais, the broker, which has gone "overweight". Asda firmed lp to 161p, J Sainsbury 34p to 4684p and William Morrison Supermarkets

7p to 31412p. Royal & SunAlliance retreated 15p to 522p after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, cut its recommendation from "add" to "hold". There was heavy turnover in GRE, 1/2p better at 337p, amid claims that the group had agreed terms with Axa. the French Insurer.

It took long enough, but Michael Grade and the board of First Leisure have confirmed they are in talks about a number of "strategic initiatives". Why else would the shares have climbed steadily since October, from a low of 1604? A management buyout

is now considered unlikely. The speculators are pinning their hopes on a bid from the likes of either Bass, down 74/2p at 805p, or Rank Group. Talks of a merger with Luminar, 5p off at 675p, persist, although the night club operator is also being linked with Northery Lei. being linked with Northern Leisure, 21/2p cheaper at 112p. First Leisure slipped 8p to 224p,



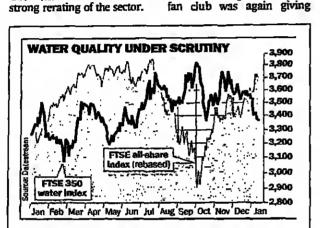
Luke Johnson has a 7 per cent stake in United Carriers and could be putting the finishing touches to a reverse takeover

while Rank fell 10%p to 209%p amid fears that Douglas Yates. the acting chief executive, is to be appointed full-time. The City had been hoping for a strong external candidate.

Dan Wagner's Dialog Corporation climbed 1544p to 7312p, reflecting fresh demand for Internet suppliers in the US, where there has been a strong rerating of the sector.

Things appear to be warming up nicely at United Carriers, up 644p at 3344p, the latest vehicle for the former stockbroker and pizza king Luke Johnson. He has built up a 7 per cent stake and may be putting the finishing touches to a reverse takeover. He has established a

reputation as a dealmaker. Shield Diagnostics' loyal



795p, and United Utilities, THE water companies are now facing up to close scrutiny from Ofwat, the industry regulator, over their pricing policies.

Some investors say that the sector has lost the sparkle that it enjoyed a few years back, when takeovers and lucrative dividends were commoo.

However, Credit Lyon-nais, the broker, has been telling clients that value for money may still be found. Among the quality plays being tipped by CL are Anglian Water, down 12p at 2p easier at 790p.
The broker still expects companies such as Anglian and UU to be in the bedrock of most portfolios and is confident of solid dividend growth despite the attention of Ofwat.

Elsewhere in the sector yesterday, Hyder rose ll/sp to 792%p and Severn Trent firmed 6p to 948p, while Pennon Group eased 34:p to E11.22%. Thames Water retreated 19p to E10.63 and Yorkshire Water shed 8%p to 521%p.

chase, with the price closing 42½p dearer at 537½p. Word is the company, which has developed a process for detecting heart ailments via a simple blood test, may be about to

make a bullish announcement. Airtech raced up 8p to 35/4p after a mendon in this column yesterday. The company says it is in talks with several par-ties, which could lead to a merger. Filtronic, down 6p at

641/2p, is a possible suitor.

Is Albright & Wilson going be the next company to come under the hammer in the chemicals sector? The price firmed 4p to 684p in heavy turnover of 7.34 million shares. The company is worth more than £200 million.

There seems to be no stopping Cortecs, where bid hopes drove the price a further 74p, or 38 per cent, higher to 25p. Nomura, the Japanese securities house, snapped up three million shares last week and now holds about 10 per cent.

On-Line continues to go from strength to strength, with the price soaring 16p to 454p. The company knows of no reason for the rise, But Michael Hodges, chairman and man-aging director, has sold 50,000 shares at 30p. Clem Cham-bers, a director, has also unloaded a further 100,000 shares at prices ranging from 30p to 33p. They say the disposals were made to improve liquidity. On Monday another David Crump, bought 2,500 shares at 25p.

Environmental Property Services, the building services support specialist, held steady at 84p, Teather & Greenwood, the broker, says the shares are

a "buy". GILT-EDGED: Falls stretched to more than El at the longer end as investors began switching our of the London bond market and into Europe. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 51p to £118.73 as the number of contracts completed stretched to 30,000. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent fell EL46 to E149.15, while in shorts, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 shed 19p at £107.72.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were lower at midday with the Dow Jones industrial average off 82.13 points at 9.537.76, just above its session low. However, strength in Walt Disney and Eastman Kodak helped the Dow to outperform the S&P 500 index.

Arnerius de la comoción de
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Hong Kong: Hang Seng 10771.56 (+77.20)
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Singapore: State
Brussels: 89.20
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similar to the story that has mired bulk chemicals. ness in the global economy makes Ellis's predicament ly be. Distribution of chemi-cals is not the most attractive of industries, but it is possible

Retailing a sorry story EVEN a casual observer of high street habits will notice that the British shopper has developed a decided taste for bargains. But the tendency is now confirmed by the pattern begin-

over, the whole of Arjo is now worth less than El billion.

paper division, and the mer-chanting side, are attractive.

But stood against most other

businesses the weakness,

even in Arjo's stronger ele-

The special, fine and coated

ning to emerge from the Christmas trading statements so far issued by retailers. This does not just mean that discounters such as Matalan have done well, it also explains why outlets such as Next have achieved sales well above the average. They have persuaded customers that they offer genuine value for money. Kingfisher has also benefited with its Woolworths and Superdrug subsidiaries on the receiving end of good like for like sales growth over Christmas. They outshone stablemates Comet and B&Q. .

Signet also had a good Christmas, but for a different reason, its business is now mainly in the US, where customers are spending as enthus astically as ever. So what of the blood-bath talked of by Sir Richard Greenbury, the M&S chairman? In light of the good news from Matalan et al, it is tempting to conclude that the fuss made about poor sales in the runup to the festive season was hot air. But this would be a mistake. We have seen only a small proportion of the retailers issue their trading statements. Moreover, overview evidence from the British Retail Consortium points to a flat December and a drop in cumulative three-month sales.

In other words, the worst is yet to come. The signs are that most of the department stores and the clothing chains have been through a very rough time and do not yet seen any sign of a bounce-back. Those brave enough to be in-terested in the retail sector should stick with the revitalised Next and a solid Kingfisher.

tions with chunky investment

capital, too. But the shares

Having come so far, share-

holders may be inclined to hang on to see if the reshuffle

brings trade or financial buy-

ers out of the woodwork. But

paper is in danger of joining

have not responded.

Arjo Wiggins

KEN MINTON may protest the opposite, but the management and divisional reshuffle effected yesterday by the chair-man of Arjo Wiggins Apple-ton, the paper group, looks like the precursor to a break up. Shareholders will certainly hope it is.

The three-way reclassification of Arjo's assets makes some sense because buyers can now clearly see what they are letting themselves in for. Unfortunately, the prices they

will be prepared to pay could suffer accordingly. The Arjo unit in carbonless paper (used for credit card receipts) and thermal paper (oldstyle fax paper) looks particu-larly unappetising. Hopes last year that that this might have been sold for £600 million now look seriously optimistic. Both are commodity suppliers in declining markets. More-

mer activities in Euope are ex-periencing price deflation.

er markets looks depressing-

ly stunted, and depressingly

The potential in these new-

ments, is plain.

Arjo has been on the sharefood production and textiles holder value crusade for some on the corporate slagheap. time. It has backed good inten- Look for an exit. DISENCHANTED SHAREHOLDER VALUE (450p

to earn a crust - especially if Ellis & Everard you have Ellis's commitment

ELLIS & Everard is in scarceto cost control. The shares trade on about ly a better position than Arjo.. Alongside most other chemeight times prospective earnicals companies, and mostings. This may sound cheap, but for a business that will be other firms that find themso difficult to grow it is proba-bly as much as any investor selves caught in the commodi-ty trap, Ellis is desperately could hope for. If Ellis steers trying to discover more profitable markets. As part of that clear of nasties the safeish divprocess Ellis bought a US pol-ymer distributor last sumidend yield of 6.5 per cent should support the price, But mer called Performance Polya sudden shock could be dismers. While it is still too early At best, hold. to pass judgment on the wisdom of that purchase, it is un-settling to see that Ellis's poly-

Savills

INVESTORS who have stuck with Savills, the property agent, may be wondering whether they have done the right thing. The stock stalled in late 1997 and then in August last year, it fell off a cliff.

short of summer peak. Savills claims it was the vic-tim of a double whammy. On the one hand, it was harmed by a 20 per cent derating of property stocks as investors

took a more pessimistic stance on the market. On the other, as a smaller company, it struggles to find favour with institutional investors who prefer the perceived so-licity, and better trading li-

quidity, of big stocks.
This leaves Savills trading on a forward pe ratio of just seven. This, in turn, may prompt its largest institutional shareholder. First Pacific Davies, to consider a takeover bid. If it does, it will have to wait until April, because until then it is restricted from raising its holding beyond 20 per cent. But even the acquisition speculation has failed to kick-start the stock price.

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Savills's prospects are not entirely gloomy, however. If interest rates contine to fall after last week's quarter-point cut - remember, base rates are just 3 per cent on the Con-tinent — then property could excite more investor attention. Hold the shares.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE



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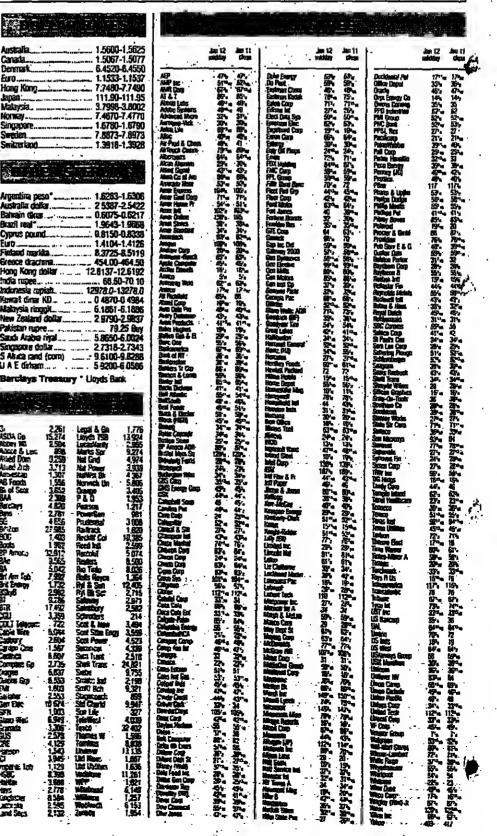
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The black farce taking place in the European Commis-sion is naturally embarrass-ing for Europe's political elites. coming as it does just a week after the launch of the single currency.
However, they should move swiftly on from hand wringing and see events in Brussels for what they are: the best possible thing to hap-

pen for Europe's future. Europe is already saddled with two powerful, unelected, unaccountable institutions, and getting rid of one of them would be a bonus. The Commission has done its iob of rubber stamping even the most our ageous fudges needed for single currency entrants to meet the Maastricht treaty. It should now be disbanded with all its powers and action of the mastricht treaty and action of the most power and action of t er and policy making transferred to the national governments in the curo II, giving them a bit more muscle to deal with Europe's other unelected, unaccountable institutions the European Cantral Broke tion: the European Central Bank

Getting rid of the Commission

would be an important first step in

closing Europe's democratic deficit

(empowering the European Parlia-

ond step, now that the euro is safely launched, is for euroland governments to tear up the Maastricht model of economic management which has, as Charles Dumas of Lombard Street Research puts it, "dangerously Balkanised policy-making institutions".

ment would be another). The sec-

Noting that the ECB's "excessive independence was the price for persuading German voters to give up the mark, be writes: "This mod-el of responsible central bankers morping up after naughty govern-ments—quale apart from being un-democratic— treats governments. as infamile and may thus encourage them to be so."

Many of us have long expected a

battle to end all battles eventually to be joined between the ECB and Europe's current politicians, largely elected on promises to end eurosciences and with it, mass unemplayment. Few of us expected the fight to be needed so soon.

What has changed is the perception of prospects for the euroland economies. Prospects had looked relatively bright in the months leading up to the euro's faunch, but the latest news is ominous. We beard yesterday that German industrial output fell by 2.3 per cent in November, far larger than the 0.7 per cent fall analysis had ex-pected. Industry orders fell by 1.5 per cent in November.

Analysis now believe that Ger man GDP may actually have fallen in the fourth quarter (arguably weaker than Britain), suggesting that the official forecast of 2 per cent growth in 1999 is too optimistic and tending to back the DIW institute that last week cut its fore-cast for this year from 2.1 per cent to 1.4 per cent.



Now is the time to tear up Maastricht

most alarming in euroland, but things are not too bright elsewhere. A Reuters survey yesterday found that manufacturing activity in the 11 eurozone countries declined in December for the third month in a row. At the same time, inflation is low and falling.

The answer is clear: euroland interest rates are too high and they need to be cut soon. Yet the ECB has said that rates will remain at 3 .The news from Germany is the per cent for the foreseeable future.

In addition, fiscal policy is far too tight for an environment which is close to being deflationary. Because of Maastricht and the Stability and Growth Pact, policy is geared towards balanced budgets, implying a tightening of curo-land's structural deficit by 0.3 per cent both this year and next.

Despite the fact that monetary

and fiscal policy are ridiculously tight, given clear signs of an economic slowdown in euroland, politicians have still not broken rank. Euroland's medium-term fiscal plans, released before February's Ecofin council meeting, showed a continuing commitment to reduce deficits further.

Even more worrying for Europe's prospects was the new year warning by Heiner Flassbeck, one of Europe's most prominent proponents of demand management, that slower growth should not be an excuse for deficit spending. So much for the return of Keynesianism to Europe. (Britain stands as an honourable exception, aggressively cutting interest rates and loosening control of public spending to allow automatic stabilisers to work at exactly the right point in

the cycle.)

We must presume that Herr Flassbeck was trying to act the fis-cal penitent as the euro was launched, but it cannot be possible for the man who is, after all, the former chief economist of the DIW institute to go on advocating tight fiscal policies. If he is, Germany and others in euroland have zero hope of cutting unemployment and Europe has an even more serious deficit in political leadership than it does in democracy,

Given the world's need for a new growth locomotive, we must all hope that euroland's politicians

abandon the Stability and Growth Pact and frighten the ECB - by threatening a dramatic fiscal loosening - into giving its tacit approval and refrain from raising rates and so negate the helpful effects of

higher spending.
It is the simplest good sense that slow growth and rising unemployment busts deficit limits even more surely than socialist tax and spend. Spain, on the back of a period of strong growth, is headed for a balanced budget with no need for any further fiscal restraint.

Europe's route map to prosperity is blindingly, idiotically obvi-ous. With low inflation, a popular (with international investors) new currency and relatively low budget deficits, there are simply no arguments against reflation and, boy, it is needed after the years of premonetary union restraint.

The prize of growth and jobs is long overdue for a Europe imprisoned by the drive towards monetary union. It would be a tragedy if Europe's politicians are so trapped in the habit of repressing growth



Twilight for the twin towers. Wembley may lose its most famous feature if current plans to rebuild the 76-year-old stadium are approved, although a number of obstacles still have to be cleared

t is a classic contest. On one side is Wembley plc. a famous company that recently came within a other is Enic, a young, aggressprice and credibility has been under pressure in recent months. In the middle is the ing body riddled with turneoil. And at issue is the redevilopment of the most famous football stadium in the world and

the chance of England hosting the World Cap in 2006. The battle over the future of Wembley Stadium has been raging for more two and ahalf years and was coming close to a conclusion, of sorts, before Enics intervention last week. Few believe that the investment group will succeed if it goes forward with its 412%p owner of the famous stadium. despite Wembley shares being at only 288p before this latest Enics emergence has shown that there are splits in the board of Wembley as well as massive question marks over the proposed £320 million redevelopment of the so-called

venue of legends". No one doubts that Wembley needs rebuilding. The stadium. is 76 years old. Its amenities are creaking. The seats are bad-ly spaced and many do not have backs. The pillars bolding up the roof spoil the sight lines for thousands of fans. The toilet facilities are largely housed in make-shift cabins. Transport to the stadium is difficult. To leave

Classic contest rages at 'venue of legends'

within an hour of the end of a match is almost impossible. pany - also called Wembley - expanded by buying the site around the stadium, which includes car parks, the Wembley Arena indoor complex and 43

acres of derelict land: It also bought greyhound tracks in the UK and the US, a gaming business in Rhode Island and the Keith Prowse corporate hospitality business. Overambition meant the company ran into financial difficulties in the early 1990s.

Wembley underwent a financial reconstruction which was completed in 1997. The rescuebrought many different proposals out of the woodwork, including an offer from Arsenal. the Premiership football team. which is having problems expanding its own stadium. There were dark mutterings. about building another national stadium, with venues as diverse as King's Cross, Birming-ham and Bradford mentioned There was even talk of the FA leasing Twickenham for Eng-land football games, though both the Rugby Football Union and the local council soon quashed this speculation. Last April a deal was struck.

Jason Nissé reports on the site, the pitch has to be moved slightly to the north. As the towbattle to fund the future of football's national stadium

ciation to sell the stadium. This morning the agreement will be signed. Essentially the English National Stadium Development Company (ENSDC), a joint venture between the Council and the FA, will pay £103 -million for Wembley and then spend more than £200 million redeveloping it into, in their words, the best stadium in the world". The redevelopment is the centrepiece of the FA's bid to bring the World Cup to Eng-land in 2006, a bid that faces stiff competition from Germany and South Africa and has been hit by the resignation of Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, and Keith Wiseman, its chairman, over a loan scandal.

This grand plan is to be backed by £120 million from the National Heritage Lonery Fund, the largest award given prisingly it has its opponents.

in principle, with the Sports tioned the ability of a quango Council and the Football Asso- and a sporting association, neiand a sporting association, nei-ther of which have an unblemished record on running commercial ventures, to run a giant stadium. They point to the cost of the project. One quantity sur-veyor, who did not want to be named because he is still hoping to be hired on the project.

said: "Sunderland built the 40,000-seat Stadium of Light for only \$20 million. Even Newcastle United's Castle Leaves project was only going to cost £65 million. How can you. spend £200 million building an 80,000-seat stadium?" hen there are ques-

tions about the devel-opment plans, which the ENSDC has yet to submit to the local council, the London Borough of Brent. For a start there was a big row when it emerged that the architects proposed knocking down the famous twin towers at the front of the stadium. It seems

ers are made of concrete and so cannot be moved they would

have to be knocked down. And then it emerged that Brent Council is opposed to just redeveloping the stadium without a project to revitalise the whole Wembley site. This would involve new roads and better links to the Underground and rail services, is-

sues that all cost money. Then there are worries about whether it is right that National Lottery grant money should be used to buy the stadium, given that the cash, minus some tax and fees for merchant bankers, will then be handed out to Wembley shareholders. Lottery money is not supposed to go to profit-making ventures.

However, the most crucial objectors to the £103 million stadium sale are three non-executive directors of Wembley - Jarvis Astaire, one of the founders of the company. Roger Brooke, the chairman of Candover, the venture capital-ist, and Peter Mead, chairman of Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising group. Their unhappiness was one of the reasons

why the deal with ENSDC was not signed until yesterday and why Enic became involved.

Enic - a company founded by Joe Lewis, the Bahamasbased billionaire, and which has interests in five European football clubs including Glasgow Rangers — claims that it was invited to put forward a proposal. It is unhappy that its interest leaked out, but then it should be used to that in football. Last year supposed secret talks between Enic and Alan Sugar, chairman of Totten ham Hotspur, to buy his stake m the Premier League club magically became common knowledge without either side claiming to have said any-

thing. The deal cratered. However. Enic's offer faces many problems. It is offering 200p in cash — 20p a share more than shareholders would receive in the handout from the ENSDC deal - plus 2184p in Enic shares. However. Enic shares have lost subsidiary. United Tobacco, which had 80 per cent of the South African market. nearly 60 per cent of their value in the past year, largely be-cause of a legal battle with UEFA, the European football governing body, and so its paper is not a strong currency

in the City at the moment. Given that the deal with ENSDC has now been signed, Enic's approach may have come too late. But it is still not clear how ENSDC is going to be able to raise the extra £200 million that it needs to complete its am-bitious plans to redevelop Wembley Stadium. This may give Enic an opportunity to still be involved. The "venue of legends" is fast turning into a quagmire of ambitions.

Unassuming Afrikaner has much to offer South Africa

a smiling Johann Rupert rolled off the presses in London yesterday, the man himself was about as far from the limelight as one could get. Overnight, the South African millionaire had boarded the company jet - a well-travelled Falcon - and flown back to Cape Town, where a car was waiting to whisk him to the seaside holiday resort of Hermanus, an hour or so up the coast.

A call to his London office was patched through by satellite to his holiday home - to the kitchen, judging by the clattering of pots and pans where Rupert. 48, was enjoying the last few days of the school holidays with his wife, Gaynor, and their teenage children, Caroline, Hanneli and Anton. We chatted courteously, about tobacco empires, luxury goods, and apartheid, and Afrikaner fieldoms, before Rupert asked to be excused: his golfing friends were waiting.

Rupert had much on which to reflect as he teed-off in the Cape sunshine. Barely hours earlier, he had cemented a deal that would once have been considered unimaginable - the EI5 billion merger of Rothmans International and British American Tobacco. How far things had come since the late 1940s, when his father, Anton, won the South African distribution rights to the premier Rothmans brands, Pall Mall and Consulate. Few back then gave the elder Rupert much of a hope against BAT's

Rupert keeps in close touch with his father, now 82, who continues to live in Stellenbosch. the Afrikaans town in the Cape winelands which became the seat of the family tobacco em-pire, Rembrandt. The deal has come as an immense source of tic relationship, in the sense that I speak to him daily, and it is wonderful to have a wise sounding-board. He still goes to the office, and walks a couple of miles a day. He's in good shape." The younger Rupert spends much of his time in the UK

.. BUSINESS LETTERS

Airlines, competition and the rival

attractions of video-conferencing

brandt's parent company, ont's interests are spread far and wide — from the Vendome luxury goods business to Nethold, the pay-TV business that was sold to Canal Plus.

However, his roots remain firmly in South African soil. He clocks up 500 hours a year in the Rembrandi jet — "my father's Falcon", as he calls it — yet has South Africa's interests at heart. He has a house at Somerset West, looking across the Cape Flats towards Table Mountain. His brother, Anthony, is in the wine business. His sister, also Hanneli, is a mezzo soprano.

The Ruperts, as Afrikaners can trace their heritage to 1662, and have no intention of upping sticks. They are of that generation of businessmen who challenged apartheid in its day, and who now feel they have some-thing to offer the "new" South Africa, even if their advice is not always welcome.

Rupert says: "Having been against the previous Government, we are in a position to e some advice. The joke is in the past, when I was against racism, I was called a communist, and now that I am against communism. I am called a racist. I'm close to these guys, and if I can't tell them, who can?"

P oignantly, the week has brought both triumph and sadness — with the death of Gavin Relly, former chairman of Anglo American. He died on Sunday, aged 73 - in Hermanus, as it happens - on the eve of the BAT announcement. Anton Rupert accompa-nied Relly on his historic visit to Zambia in 1985, when a South African contingent infuriated Pretoria by opening talks with the then-banned African National Congress. The two families have

been close for years. Johann Rupert will take a non-executive seat on the BAT board, but is anxious not to steal the limelight from Martin Broughton, BAT's chairman. Yet Rupert is every bit the modern businessman, as events this week affirm. And the Falcon jet still has some miles left in it.

JON ASHWORTH

Rank insider

to replace Andrew "a smile and a profit warning. Teare at Rank are out of the frame, leaving the field open for Douglas Yates, the obvious internal choice. Ken Hanna, who unbundled Dal-

gety, yesterday joined Compass Partners, a venture capital outlit set up by John Clark, former chief executive at BET, and a couple of bankers. Hanna was favourite to become Rank's chief executive but it seems he has fired of the directors' inability to

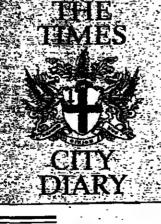


THE two credible outside candidates make up their minds. He initially tried to play down speculation about Rank by claiming he did not want to spend his life breaking things up. Now lie is on to make a packet pick-ing up the pieces at Compass after other corporate break-ups. Coincidentally. I hear that the second ourside candidate. Claes Hult-

man of Wembley, has been told by Kank that he will not be getting the job. There is still no sign of that bid that former manager John Garren was definitely - repeat, definitely - going to make before Christmas, I see. So expect Yates, acting chief executive, to be anointed in due course. Whether this will be enough to mollithe institutions and restore the Rank fortunes remains to be seen.

THE lenest sightings of Nicola, the ... foul-mouthed eight year-old, and her advice to the British Airways pilot arrive from as far afield as Air Europe: 15 years ago, the Ministry of Defence and the junior section of a small librury in rural Cheshire, where her note was swiftly removed from view.

I think we have established that it does not date from a British Airways come curtain up, 1 would have cockpit lost week I ring my 54 thought. It is, after all, hard to see the source, who is still unrepentant. It. Iron Lady comprehending, let alone might be a copy of a previous docu- tolerating, two hours of turgid histoment that was thrust forward to the ry in French about a man who conflight deck," he says. Enough.



So playful

UNEXPECTED signs of a sense of humour from Jacques Attali, polymath and former head of the European Central Bank until expensive tastes led to his downfall. His play about Charles V, the 16th-century Holy Roman Emperor, opens in Paris today and there is a gala performance on January 18.

To the latter he has invited Mikhail Gorbachev and Baroness Thatcher and spouse, who are more likely to be found on the far side of the moon Iron Lady comprehending, let alone quered most of Europe.

Still, it all adds to the advance publicity, which our playwright has ensured will be entirely positive. The critics are denied a look at the masterwork until well after the gala night.

Bob a 100

THE newspaper advertisment yesterday for a lawyer to earn El million. sorry, "to £1 million-plus", which covers a wide range, attracted plenty of publicity for the headhunter in-volved, QD Legal Strangely, inquiries show there is no such job.

An executive at the headhunter admit-

ted there is no one position guaranteeing that salary. The "immensely profit-able" US law firm involved hopes to fill a number, and one has the "poten-tial" to earn such a high sum — assuming the ability to bring in E3 million to £4 million of new business.

Soll, the ad will have brought in the names of a few highly-paid lawyers who might be interested in changing jobs. You never know when these might come in handy.

AN AMERICAN multimillionaire with two Internet company start-ups behind him has quit to spare his latest. USWeb/CKS Corporation, from "public relations complications". As well he might. Joe Firmage, 28. believes advanced technology was handed to us by aliens. So he is off to find them. Firmage, like most Americans. claims he has already met one. There's a higger picture out there than just tomorrow's stock price."

Boo hoo

ELSEWHERE in far-out corporate America, Yahoo, the eccentrically named provider of Internet Services. is proving remarkably uncool about a spool site with a similar name that has emerged. YaHooka is devoted to drug chat and paraphernalia and, as you can see from the illustration below, is not unlike Yahoo's own.

The \$40 billion US corporation has already taken action against a sex site with a similar name. But the pot-heads, based in Oklohoma City, are proving more resilient, or possibly more difficult to spur into anything resembling action. They claim the site does not make a profit and is purely

"The name just came together," drawled a spokesman. "It wasn't a conscious decision," Like, right. per cent on average. In total,

> MARTIN WALLER martin waller@the-times.co.uk



blamed for BA's current woes (report and Tempus, January 7). Competition is widely believed to be in the best interests of the consumer, though it is difficult to see how, even in the high-tech world of aviation.

From Mr A. G. Phillips

Sir, Cut-throat competition is

Air fares are sky-high, there is congestion both within airports and in the airspace around them and business customers waste valuable working time. Airline load factors remain stubbornly below 70

waste of resources, energy and potential shareholders' profit. But, as Tempus wisely observes, more and more firms are discovering the benefits of video-conferencing. Most busi-

ness meetings are about ex-

changing ideas. So why travel at the speed of sound to do so when you can, at far less cost, do so at the speed of light? Yours faithfully, ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS, 32 Upper Street, Salisbury,

Wiltshire SP2 8LY.

Trade with Cuba From the President, US-Cuba

Trade and Economic Council Sir, Your article "SB to barter for Cuba meningitis vaccine" (Business News, January 11) states that "American legislation prohibits trade with

Department of State to be us-

This is not true. The Helms-Burton Law permits sanctions against non-United Statesbased companies which are deemed by the United States

lic of Cuba upon which there exists a claim certified by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission in Washington Trade between the United

ing an asset within the Repub-

States and the Republic of Cuba is limited, not prohibited. Yours faithfully, JOHN S. KAVULICH II, President,

US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council. 30 Rockefeller Plaza. New York, NY 10012.

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	### Agranger Info 76"	30 210 57 100 50 87 65 2 52	ELECTRONIC & ELECT 1582: 715 ABA Notitings 1392:-780 125 239-Austr 126 239-Austr 127 - 5 25 127 Anshall 128 - 77 0.3 129 - 27 0.3	1794 1729 festatis Group 1 669 - 9 27 12 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17	12 1567 1147 Gmn F Exter 1227 74 15.8 1507 1147 Gmn F Exter 1227 74 15.8 1507 1150 1150 1150 1150 1150 1150 1150	289 1473-biolose Para: 2465 22 225 2871, 155 hospity 155 52 9.8 333 191 historicht 344 4 5 41 22 20 06 Junes Horsteit 165 2 65 569. 3515-brys Najel 485 4 2 1 1 52 65 377 15 Romets 15 4 3 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	130 87 helmaner Res 82 135 14 14 15 15 15 15 15 1	400 200 Chesseld 537 175 Classified 37 Wy Chesseld 37 Wy Chesseld 37 189 Cay Andb 537 177 Cay Sate East 107 72 Chesteld Est 999 757 CAC Roos 2645 1897 Camport 1776 1055 Resse 1	57' 44 5/8 56 8.8 97' 1 28 244 27' 6 65 8.4 14 3 70 54 76 70 54 76 100 49 146	TELECOMMUN	
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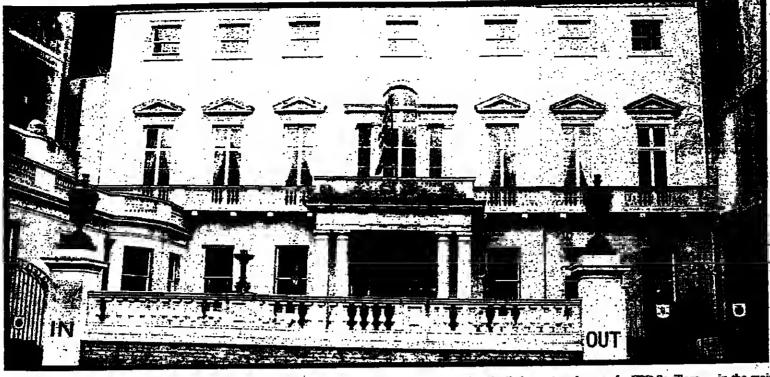
or sale: urban splendour on
2 spectacular scale. One of
London's most historic houses, previously home to the Naval and Military Club, officially goes on the market this week for 550 million after months of speculation on its future.

The former home of Lord Palmerston, at No 94 Piccadilly. has been empty since last month when members of the club. nicknamed the "In and Out" after the prominent signs on its gateposts topped with lanterns left after 133 years. Next month they are due to walk across London en masse to new premises in St James's.

FDP Savills and Pannell Kerr Forster are advising its Kuwaiti owners on the sale of the Palladian-fronted building. The owners have investigated the possibility of turning the 50-bedroom establishment into an hotel or possibly a foreign embassy, and have also received expressions of interest from several wealthy foreigners who wish to turn the building back into a private house.

When it reverts to private use the house will be one of the capital's finest properties, complete with ornate ballroom and a wide enclosed courtyard at the back with a fountain and plane trees, beneath which A.E.W. Mason began writing The Four Feathers.

Once called Egremont House, the property was built for the lst Lord Egremont and was designed



by Matthew Brettingham between 1756 and 1760. It was later occupied by the Duke of Cambridge, and from 1855 to 1865 it was home to Lord Palmerston.
The In and Out club moved in on

a long lease in 1866. As well as boasting a private staircase for Palmerston's spies, it

was also the scene of an attack on Queen Victoria by a madman brandishing a stick. It has housed such illustrious men as Scott of the Antarctic and Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouts. The Admiral of the Fleet the Marquess of Milford Haven and the

dent, the Duke of Edinburgh, died

on the premises in 1921. The Grade I listed building is said to be frequented by the ghost of Major W.H. Braddell, wearing his greatcoat. He miraculously survived when a German bomb killed everyone else in the club's grandfather of the club's presi-

A spokesman for FPD Savills refused to comment on the sale, but it is believed to include other property, including the freehold of several nearby shops, and the lease of three houses in Half Moon Street that were previously used as bed-rooms by the club. There are thought to be at least 50 bedrooms

Photograph: James Morgan in the main house, plus a library and the magnificent panelled Oc-

tagon room.

The in and Out club has now

Urban splendour.

this historic house has been home

since 1866 to the

Navai and Military Club —

known as the In and Out club. The

Kuwaiti owners

have decided to sell the former

home of Lord

Palmerston, which has 50

bedrooms, a

a library

ballroom and

moved to new premises at 4 St James's Square, once home to Lady Astor. Britain's first sitting woman MP, and later this month Bonhams will be auctioning re-

maining chattels, including furniture, pictures, mirrors and wood-

en knick-knacks. Perhaps the only other London mansion on the market that com-pares with the In and Out is No 1 Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park. The late Victorian house, with its 40 rooms and domed swimming pool that turns into a ballroom, is unsold at £15 million.

Avril Butt of De Groot Collis.

which is handling the sale, is confident that the asking price will be met because this end of the market is "more recession proof". Palace seekers prepared to venture be-youd the metropolis could consider Luton Hoo, a stately home on a huge 1,500-acre Bedfordshire estate that housed the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on their honeymoon, and was also used in the hit British film Four Weddings and a Funeral

The estate includes a Grade I listed mansion, 47 houses and cottages, a lake and parkland. The property was for sale for £25 milion more than a year ago and has still not found a buyer. Now the main house, five cottages and 500 acres are for sale for £10 million.

Others could consider Ment-more Towers in Buckinghamshire, on the market since November 1997. A Victorian 60-bedroom mansion that once belonged to Lord Rosebery, the house is accompanied by 80 acres of woodland and ornamental grounds

Houses? Not in my neck of the woods

he population of Cambridgeshire is likely to grow at 31/2 times the national average over the next 20 or so years. A report by the Office for National Statistics predicts that the number of people living in the county will rise by 24.6 per cent by 2021 to 678,600 - a jump of 134,000. The national average is expected to be 6.9 per cent over that period. But the popularity of Cam-

bridgeshire is creating some problems. The most serious is the urgent need for new housing, while a complete overhaul of the road network and public transport system is vital.

economic Cambridge's boom and its ability to auract the world's leading high-tech companies - such as Microsoft — is causing a bureau-cratic headache for planners keen to preserve the region's past yet faced with the reality of needing more than 100.000

Even at this stage there is a dispute over the number of homes required: a central government figure puts it at 122,500 by 2016 compared with the local authority projection of 96.500. This, coupled with the huge budget required to create a viable fransport network linking proposed new "settlements" in the county. will be the subject of a major public planning inquiry to be held at Ely next month. It will allow local councils, housing advisers — including the House-Builders Federation (HBF) — and individual developers to make their views known to a panel of govern-

ment-appointed experts. Christopher Carey, a part ner of the East Anglian proper-ty consultants Bidwells, says: "Our greatest problem is creating viable new country settlements. Ten years ago, there

Cambridgeshire needs more homes, but it does not want to destroy its green belt. Diana Wildman reports

was an agreement in principle between the local authorities and a consortium of developers to build a 3,000-home project called Cambourne eight miles west of Cambridge, complete with 750,000 sq ft of commercial space, a school, pubs and shops.

"Nothing has happened because there is an impasse between the local authority and the housebuilders. Under the Section 106 agreement, the develop-

ers have agreed to provide certain forms of transport including some roads and cycle tracks, but not be-fore they start building. The local authority wants the forehand. The developers naturally

want to start building before committing themselves."

problem, Mr Carey says, is transport. "This Government decided to cancel a large number of new road projects which saved billions of pounds. The consequence for Cambridgeshire is to create new villages well away from the city. There has to be a reasonable transport system and

available. of decent transport facilities

that no one will want to move there. It is impractical." David Henry, head of planning at Savills's Cambridge office, says there must be a fresh approach towards new village plans within the green belt. The green belt will have to be violated as we simply have to put all this housing some-

where," he says. "Our local papers are full of these problems. Cambridge commuter traffic is so dreadful that more and more people, as they trade up, want to move into the city or live belt will be in the more accessi-

moor

says.

two-bedroom flat or house. We

have 20,000 students to accom-

modate during term-time and

a large amount of inner-city

purchases are by investors."

Marc Cranfield-Adams, a

spokesman for HBF, believes

that the government recom-

mendation for an extra 122,500

homes is more realistic than the number suggested by the

Janual planners. "The issue

facing planners as recom-

mended by the Government is to take economic growth and

the interest of stakeholders

into account," he says. "This

ble suburbs where,

over the past two

years, a five-bed-

home set in a cou-

ple of acres has ris-

en from E400,000

to £500,000," he

buyers, however,

are waiting longer

and want either a

detached

"First-time

violated,we have to put housing

somewhere

now there is no funding

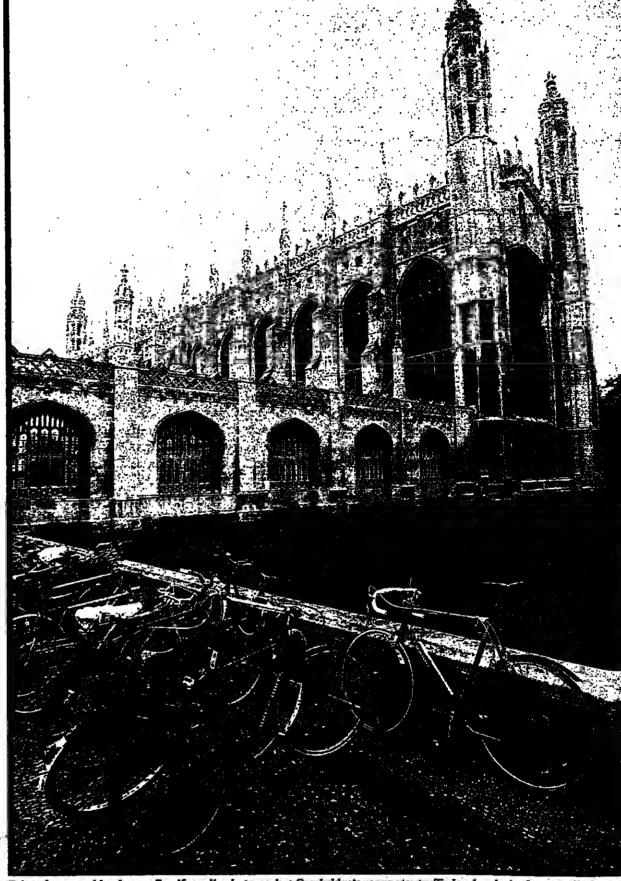
"The local authority is keen to build on parts of the Fens but it will take so long to reach Cambridge because of the lack all has implications, in particu-lar for Cambridge's green belt boundaries, and the House-Builders' Federation will draw attention to the need for an examination of the green belt and the possibility of other forms of development."

Mr Carey believes that the two fundamental and inescapable issues are an inflexible bureaucracy and the huge amount of funding required to solve the transport and housing problems.
On one hand, the Govern-

brownfield sites for housing. There are certain areas within Cambridge which are ideal for residential use, such as the old railway sidings in Chesterton in the northeast suburbs. This is where people want to live and environmentally it is an excellent option. But the local authority guidelines and those of the Government, although both Labour, differ. It is all very well for the Government to state that we must increase the housing stock by one quarter but the council doesn't necessarily want to grant a change in planning use on brownfield sites.

Then there is the requirement for housebuilders to include social housing - up to 25 per cent on any urban scheme. Builders don't like this restraint, especially on a low-density scheme, so a degree of realism simply has to be introduced."

Political infighting must stop, transport and housing must be planned in tandem and developers and the local authority must be more flexible. If this does not happen, it is unlikely that the Government's nousing goal for Cam-bridgeshire by 2016 -- and the continuing international investment in the region - will



Price of success: bicycles are fine if you live in town, but Cambridge's commuter traffic is a headache for council planners



Why your pet should not be seen or heard

WE MAY be a nation of animal lovers. but when it comes to selling a house, it's often a different story. Dogs on the loose, cat litter trays, hamsters in bedrooms, not to mention more exotic pets, can put po-tential buyers and estate agents off your

property.

Many agents have tales of animal encounters. Nigel Steele, at Strutt & Parker in Norwich, has been bitten four times by dogs while viewing houses, with the last incident costing him a pair of trousers, while John Husband, at Humberts, just managed to dodge a potentially sticky incident with a spitting flama.

Mike Dunning, at Lane Fox in Win-chester, still recalls an encounter with a parrot residing in a property he was selling. "The parrot insisted on screeching obscenities at visitors from its perch as they came through the front door. So we covered its cage with a thick duvet and managed to quieten it down," he says. "We all know that animals, whether

they be cats, dogs, guinea-pigs or parrots, form part of the family. But over-affec-

ing up at visitors, can scare people and could put off a potential purchaser. "Dogs should be banished to the kennel, baskets should be tidied up or away and cats should be removed from the sofa

tionate pels, happily barking and jump-

and beds. For many there's nothing worse than a faint wan of dog blankets. gnawed bones or soggy cat litter." Andrew Dewar, at Curchods, says:

"However friendly your pets, hide them away for viewing because you simply do not know what fears, allergies and dislikes prospective purchasers may have. It's not just the animals that can be demmental to a sale, it's the aftermath, including smells, dog hairs and the mess they make in the garden. Make sure you remove all of the above, as well as the ani-

mals, before a viewing."

Michael Bedford, at Bedfords in Burnham Market, recalls clients trying to self their West Norfolk home: "People were looking round the property and kept complaining about the dogs. I went round for a visit, and it was like having two porties

following you around. It was very infimi-dating. Eventually I told the vendors to lock their dogs away, and they sold the house shortly afterwards.

Many people coming out of London do not have large dogs so are naturally wary of them. It is better to put the ani-mals in another room, and when you get to it, ask the viewers if they mind dogs."

THE BRIEFCASE of Conrad Payne, at Cluttons Daniel Smith in Tunbridge Wells, recently came off worse in an encounter with a young pure. Luckily the incident occurred when he was valuing the

More exotic pets can also pose prob-lems. James Bailey, at Douglas & Gordon in Fulham recalls a client who owned a pet piranha, which he led on live lobster: "As you can imagine, this did lit-de to impress applicants viewing the house, and eventually we had to co-ordinate feeding times so that they didn't coincide with viewings."

A python held up the proceedings for

Hamptons International in Fulham last year. The first time the buyer viewed the flat, the snake was in a cage and he particularly said that he hated reptiles.

At the second viewing, the party was halfway round the house when they suddenly noticed that the snake was not in his cage. The buyer left in an instant Just before he was about to exchange, he made the negotiator go round to the flat with him to check that the snake was not

But imagine buying a house complete. with an usingly per A property for sale, with a resident Vietnamese pot belied pig posed something of a problem for Mr Steele. The pig had taken over the vendors' lives completely, and they had decided that selling up was the only way to get away from their pet.

"It was a pretty house, but most people tan a mile," Mr Steele says. "Someone did actually buy, but I am not sure how ong the pig lasted.

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BETTER BUILT HOMES. TAKE IT AS REDROW

Non-party's entitlement to papers Contract not apt in divorce deal

Services Ltd v Liverpool and London Steamship Protection and Indemnity Association Ltd and Others (FAI General Insurance Company Ltd

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss. Lord Justice Potter and Sir Patrick

Judgment December 21!

A non-party to an action was entitled to inspect and make copies of written opening submissions or skeicton arguments to which reference was made by the judge at trial. A non-party was not entitled to inspect documents referred to in a witness statement or the documents on the judge's reading list.

The Court of Appeal so held in 2 reserved judgment in allowing in part an appeal brought by FAI General Insurance Company Ltd against the refusal by Mr Justice Timothy Walker of their applications to inspect and/or take copies of various documents referred to in open court and taken as read in the course of a trial in which FAI were not a party.

Mr Brian Leveson, QC and Miss Tina Cook for FAI: Mr Colin Edelman. QC and Mr David Joseph for Godfrey Merren Robert-son Ltd (GMR); Miss Helen Davies for Ocean Marine Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that FAI were currently defendants in proceedings brought by Ocean Marine Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association Ltd and Ocean Marine Mutual Insurance Association Europe OV (OMM) in which OMM sought recovery of sums due under contracts of reinsurance made between OMM and FAI in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

FAI had purported to avoid the contracts of reinsurance for misrepresentation/non-disclosure and defend upon those grounds. The contracts of reinsurance were made via a chain of brokers in London and Australia. The same chain of brokers was involved in placing a number of reinsurance contracts which were the subject matter of the trial before Mr Justice Timothy Walker in the present action.

The present action centred on the avoidance of reinsurance contracts by the plaintiffs, Gio Personal Investment Services Ltd of the re-Insured, Liverpool and London Steamship Protection and Indemni-

The placements of those contracts was broadly contemporaneus with those in the OMM action. The brokers were the same two par-

Prior to trial, Gio and Liverpool and London settled. Liverpool and party proceedings against the first,

At the trial, the effective plaintiff was GMR pursuing claims for indemnity and/or damages against the sub-brokers, Chapman & Co. Mr Jonathan Chapman and GAK

(Reinsurance) Party Ltd.
On June 2, 1998 short opening speeches were made by Mr Edel-man, QC, for GMR and Mr Tomlinson, OC, for GAK, Mr Edelman made it clear that he had a written opening which he placed before the judge saying that he did not wish to develop it that day but preferred the judge to read it in conjunction with a lengthy opening statement for GAK, following which he would deal with any of the judge's queries. He then elaborated on the issues as they emerged from the opening and Mr Tomlinson did

The judge indicated that he would spend the next few days reading indicating that he would be completed by June 8, when the

parties re-attended court. By June 8, GMR and GAK had settled and GMR proceeded against Chapman and Co and Mr naponan who did not appear.

On June 2. prior to the openings. FAI's solicitors had written to GMR's solicitors requesting that they make available copies of the skeleton arguments lodged by counsel, the trial bundles and daily transcripts as they became availa-ble, all against FAI's undertaking to pay reasonable charges.

GMR did not comply and on June 8 representations were made to the judge on FAI's behalf. The priate for FAI to intervene without

On June 10, Mr Justice Walker delivered a judgment in respect of the claims against Chapman and Co and Mr Chapman which effecrively concluded the litigation.

Mr Leveson. QC, who now ap-peared for FAI, immediately apthe skeleton arguments, trial bun-dies, reading list submitted by the parties and lists of witnesses submitted to the judge after the trial

FAI put their case on the basis of ntitlement as any member of the public although they did not conceal their underlying purpose motivating their application. Mr Justice Walker had rejected

the application saying that while he considered that the court had inherent jurisdiction to make the order sought, in the exercise of his discretion the application would be re-

On the appeal, FAI limited the order they sought to obtaining copies of documents referred to in the witness statements, any written opening skeleton arguments and any document which the judge was either specifically requested to read or which was included in any read-

FAI as a non-party for access to docrements used or referred to in evidence in the course of trial was based upon the provisions of Or-der 38, rule 2A of the Rules of the Supreme Court, it seemed to his Lordship to be doomed to failure

for two reasons. First, on their plain words, they imposed upon the court a power in respect of witness statements only and did not extend to cover documents referred to in those state-

Second, nothing in the history or context of the introduction of the rule led one to suppose that the Rules Committee intended thereby to introduce a provision which would enable a third party to the litleation to obtain access to inter ously, unless by agreement with the parties, been unavailable to any member of the public whether or not he or she attended court to hear the oral evidence of the wit-

The purpose of rule 2A focused on increasing the efficiency of the inter partes process from a procedural point of view. The rule sought to accelarate the disclosure of the parties evidence as between ives, however, it was not intended otherwise to disturb the in-ter paries balance of advantage in the litigation or to prejudice the rights of the litigating parties outside the confines of the rule.

So far as the written openings. skeleton arguments and the docu-ments referred to therein were conments received to therefore were comed, Mr Leveson put his case on very broad grounds, recognising that, in seeking an order other than under Order 38, rule 2A, he had to rely on the inherent jurisdic tion of the court to regulate its own

In his Lordship's judgment, so far as the opening, or other, speech-es of counsel were concerned, tending court would have the benefit of hearing them and be free to report them, there was no provision or requirement for the taking of a shorthand note or for other form of record for the benefit of the public. No doubt that was because, for the purposes of any subsequent appeal, it was the evidence before the udge and his stated reasons which were essential to the validity of his

So far as concerned documents which formed part of the evidence or court bundles, there had historically been no right, and there was currently no provision, which enabled a member of the public present in court to see, examine or copy a document simply on the basis that It had been referred to in court or read by the judge,

If and in so far as it might be read out, it would enter the public domain and a member of the press or public could quote what was

for purposes of further use or information depended upon his ability to obtain a copy of the document from one of the parties or by other lawful means.

There was no provision by which the court might, regardless of the wishes of the parties to the litigation, make such a document available to a member of the pub-

Nor, so far as such documents were concerned, did his Lordship consider that any recent development in court procedures justified the court contemplating such an exercise under its inherent jurisdic-

On the other hand, the arguments for such an exercise in respect of the written submissions of counsel or skeleton arguments which were used as a substitute for oral submissions seemed to his Lordship to he a good deal strong-

in exercising his discretion. Mr Justice Walker seemed to have regarded the particular interest and purpose of FAI in seeking to obt copies of counsel's written submissions, namely to obtain a full understanding of the issues and to identify the documents going to those issues as the possible subject for subpoena in parallel lingarion. as a reason to refuse access which he might otherwise have been disposed to grant to a differently motivated member of the public.

Yet, quite apart from the interest of the press, who were members of the public for this purpose most people who attended a trial when they were not parties to it or directly interested in the outcome did so in furtherance of some special interest, whether for the purposes of edest, whether for the purposes, or by ucation, critique or research, or by reason of membership of a pressure group, or for some other or but legitimate motive. It did not seem to his Lordship that the purpose of FAI in the case was in any

sense improper.
In his Lordship's view, the appropriate judicial approach to such an application in a complicated case was to regard any member of the public who for legitimate reasons applied for a copy of counsel's written opening or skeleton argument, when it had been accepted by the judge in lieu of an oral open-

ing, as prima facie entitled to it.

The appeal would be allowed to the extent of ordering FAI and OMM be entitled to inspect and make copies of the written opening submissions or skeleton argu-ments to which reference was made by the judge at trial.

Sir Patrick Russell and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss agreed. Solicitors: Clyde & Co. Guilford; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Bar-

low Lyde & Gilbert

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith. Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Jus-

tice Murumery [Judgment December 21] Ordinary contractual principles did not determine the question whether parties had concluded an

greement for ancillary relief in divorce proceedings. If there was a dispute as to whether negotiations led to an accord abbreviating ancillary relief proceedings, the court had a discretion in determining whether an ac-

cord had been reached.

The Court of Appeal so stated in reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by Harry Costas Xydhi as from the dismissal by of Judge Hamilton on November 5, 1997 in Birmingham County Court, of his appeal against the order of District Judge Hargreaves on November 25, 1996, and holding that pre-tria negotiations between the husband and his wife, Chrystalla Xydhias, amounted to an agreement for the purposes of an abbreviated ancillary relief hearing under section 23

the Matrimonial Causes Act The wife had netitioned for divorce in 1994 and applied for ancillary relief. Lengthy and detailed pre-trial negotiations took place shortly before the hearing and the amount of the lump sum and the number of instalments appeared to tails, although no document setting our the terms was signed by the parties and no agreement was reached as to how the payments should be secured. Various draft orders were prepared but not signed by the parties.

The wife's solicitors wrote to the court requesting a short appoint-ment. But a few days before the hearing the husband sought to resile from the agreement and to vary the terms of the instalments.

The wife applied for an order that the husband show cause why an order should not be made in the terms of the agreement reached.

The application was heard as a preliminary issue.

Mr Patrick Eccles, QC and Mr Edward Hess for the husband; Mr Michael Horowitz, QC and Mr Timothy Bishop for the wife. LORD JUSTICE THORPE said

that counsel for the trusband submitted that the ordinary contractual principles summarised in Pag-nan SpA v Feed Products Ltd [[1987] 2 Lloyd's Rep 601) applied. His Lordship's cardinal conclusion was that ordinary comractual principles did not determine the is-

sues in the appeal.

That was because of the fundamental distinction that an agree-ment for the compromise of an an-cillary relief application did not give rise to a contract enforceable

The parties seeking to uphold a concluded agreement for the compromise of such an application could not sue for specific performance. The only way of rendering the bargain enforceable, was to convert the concluded agreement

The court did not either automat-

pendent assessment to enable it to ... discharge its stanutory function to make such orders.

It was clear that the award to an applicant for ancillary relief was al-ways fixed by the court. The payer's liability could not be ultimately fixed by compromise as in the set tlement of claims in other divi-

The purpose of negotiation was not to finally determine the liability but to reduce the length and expense of the process by which the court carried out its function.

If there was a dispute as to whether the negotiations led to an accord that the process should be abbreviated, the court had a discretion in determining whether an accord had been reached.

To exercising that discretion the court should be astute to discern the antics of a litigant who, having consistently pressed for abbrevia tion, sought to resile and justify his. shift by reliance on some point of detail that was open for determinaion by the court at its abbreviated

If the court concluded that the parties agreed to settle on terms, it might have to consider whether the terms were vitigated by a factor such as material non-disclosure or tainted by a factor within the patameters set in Edgar v Edgar (1980) I WLR 1410).

Finally, in every case the court had to exercise its independent discretionary review applying the sec-tion 25 criteria to the circumstances of the case and to the terms of the

accord.

That approach particularly ap-

delivery of briefs for trial. Different considerations might apply to agreements not negotiated in the shadow of an impending fixture. There were two lessons for specialist practitioners.

First, to distinguish clearly between the two stages of negotia-

(i) establishing what the applicant was to receive, expressed in simple terms in heads of agreement signed by both counted and their clients:

(ii) expressing the heads of agree ment in the language of an order of the court, a task to which the parties ordinarily made little contribution. The signature of the parties to a draft consent order hardly seemed apt.

Second, it was desirable that counsel should explicitly agree whether their negotiations were open or without prejudice. Ordinarily they were likely to be without prejudice and if they did not achieve a concluded agreement the aftermath was likely to be an exchange of Calderbank letters freserving the right to refer on the issue of costs to a without prejudice offer! (Calderbank v Calderbank (1976) Farm 93) and/or open corre-

On the evidence before him the district judge was right to hold that the parties had concluded a com-

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Mummery agreed. Solicitors: Blakemores, Learnngton Spa; Mercy Messenger, So-

Discretion to make compensation grant

Regina v Law Society, Ex parte Nielsen

Before Mr Justice Sullivan Judgment December 31

Guideline 3 in the schedule to the Solicitors Compensation Fund Rules 1995, which concerned losses for which grants would not be made, did not unlawfully fetter the discretion of the compensation fund committee of the Law Society to make a grant under section 36(2) of the Solicitors Act 1974.

Mr Justice Sullivan so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judi-cial review of the refusal on June 18, 1998 of Kirsten Aagaard Nielsen's application for a grant out of the fund.

Mrs Nielsen had deposited El-2 million into a bank account under the control of a solicitor, Charles Julian Deacon, on the strength of his undertaking that he would hold the money until completion of a transaction, and would repay it to her if the transaction was not com-

Deacon was then fraudulent and the money was never recovered. Mr A. Leolin Price, OC, for Mrs Nielsen; Mr David Pannick, QC.

for the Law Society. MR JUSTICE SULLIVAN said that he had no doubt that the Law Society had the power to formulate and apply general policy guide-lines, provided that they were not applied inflexibly and without regard to the circumstances of a par-

His Lordship was referred to R v Law Society, Ex parte Moregage Express Ltd ([1997] 2 All ER 348, 359-360]. That case was concerned with mortgage frauds facilitated by dishonest solicitors hence the emphasis upon the primary pur-pose of the fund being to replace money which had been taken by somoney which had been taken t licitors for their own benefit.

The court was not concerned with the question of whether the soparte Ingman Foods Oy AB [[1997]]
2 All ER 666, 668].
In his Lordship's view, section

gaged in such activities. may be reached for the was sufficient flexibility page of the day.

within the rules to take into consideration those cases where such a business person had made a mini mal contribution to the loss.

Rule 16 far from saying that the guidelines should be followed emphasised that they could be taken into consideration, but must not be allowed to fetter the court's discreword "normally",

In his Lordship's judgment, the committee's concerns regarding cach of the factors mentioned in the decision letter was fully justi-

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36(2) conferred a broad discretion on the Law Society. Bearing in

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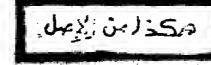
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Cinders a fitfully revises

PAGE 35

at the Coliseum

THE



oung artists can move fast these days, and some performers in the

final concert of the Park Lane Group's January showcase al-

ready had a CD to hawk: coming in February, we were told, on the Black Box label. These

were the Quartz Sarophone Quartet, former pupils at the Guildhall School of Music

and Drama of John Harle, who has done so much to

bring the instrument to the forefront in new British music.

There they were, four fresh-faced men, brilliantly demon-strating the saxophone's abili-

ty to croon like Bing Crumby.

wail like a Weimar jazz band

and burble like an upset stom-

Or make the players go red in the face. This happened, inevitably, during Michael Nyman's Songs for Tony, written in memory of his fate business

manager, Tony Simons. Ny-man's driving style suits massed saxophones well, al-though you wonder how long

he can go on filling new bottles

with his old wine (especially

Semaine de Bonté, a Quartz

commission, inspired by one.

of Max Ernst's surreal picture

novels. With four saxophones,

however, a little wayward ebul-

lience went a long way.

The quartet left the best to

last: Gavin Bryars's Alaric I or U. from 1989. Some Bryars

pieces consist of fascinating programme notes with pallid music attached. But this was

the score to The Piano). .



Puffed out by

the joy of sax

After ten years in films, 18-year-213 Christina Ricci remains refreshing

cynical. Sheila Johnston reports

or many of her lans Christina Ricci will be forever Wednesday. the adorably malevolent, poker-faced nine-year-old she played in the two Addams Family films. They still identify me with her," the actress says. "That's OK — it's not like I was in The Parent Trap. And it made them apprehensive about approaching and talk-ing to me, which was fine. Because I don't really like people all that much.

"I hated being a kid because someone was always telling you what to do. Everyone as-sumes you're an idiot. The best thing about being an adult is not being conde-

"And also," adds the 18-year-old (10 next month) Ricci. who has been smoking regularly since she was 15, "I can now legally buy cigarettes in America.

assumed That's the stuff to give the ticket-buying troops who will no doubt line up to experience Ricci's latest incursion into bad-girl territory.

Friday sees the opening of The Opposite of Sex, an acerbic comedy about a group of sexual misfits. She stars as Dedee, a trailer-trash blonde who visits her gay half-brother, seduces his lover, then persuades him that he has fathered her baby.

She is also the film's narrator, keeping up an acid-tongued commentary on the convoluted plotline and pitiful dramatis personae. "I don't have a heart of gold and I don't grow one later." Dedee confides cheerfully: like Wednesday, she's the kind of baleful character with whom audiences love to identify.

Ricci was talent-spotted, aged eight, in a school pageant supplying a sardonic commen-tary on The Twelve Days Of Christmas ("all a kid wants for Christmas is a basketball, but she gets dumb presents like a partridge in a pear tree"). Her auspicious screen debut was opposite Winona Ryder and Cher in Mermaids (1990), a comedy about fraught motherdaughter relationships. followed by the two Addams Family films and the chil-

dren's ghost movie Casper. Then came a rocky patch, with duds like Gold Diggers: The Legend Of Bear Mountain. That Darn Cat and The Cemetery Club. And an actress could build quite a reputation (not to mention a bank balance) on the movies for

which Ricci admissions are: jected: Jurassie Park, Ballet & Robin, Lolini, Little V. 201 en. Interview With the Varie-

pire and Romer and Jellei But finally there was I no lies Storm. And Lee's glaculi not comedy of sexual confederation and emotional deep freeze to 1970s American substrate of turned out to be that narrow a succes d'estime which was a coa respectable internation... box-office hit. Ricci 3000 v.75 applauded for her morepoignant portrait of a day 2. * are, sexually precisions to the er. She had officially have to

⁶ I hated dustrials to a connent mane. being a kid; it's

you're an idiot?

voices in Joe Chais te's semi-unimate. feature Small Soldiers. So much work, so short a time. Has it left Ricci hangs to herself: "Yeah, I'm CW.", she grunts, adding, almost as an afterthought lest this council too hrusque, "than it yet..." in might be forgiven for assume she admits to having softered from anorexia, then, as proved ty crashed in, acquiring imposing curves, not all of the wanted talthough she wallikes to describe Tay Care of Sex as fall about the dans

ager). She went through a

phase of burning hered week

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age she seems for michiperienced, "You many on... Well. I've been in the in the for ten years. I kn m store in talking about when it can inches work, but not when the many

According to Don Read to writer-director of The Cortes of site of Sev. "Unit to the tough coulde, but at a weart. time she has a very trainquality to her. She i. . . it dee in her honesty, iter also to ness and her implayment pretension. She has a b

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script. Asylum, about "a group of youths who feel dead when they are unable to make the transition to adulthood"). but also as someone who does not suffer fools gladly. She speaks scornfully of the

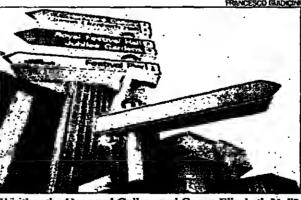
"weak producers" who made life difficult on Buffalo 66, and of unprofessional colleagues. "i prefer people who have been in this business a long time. There are certain courtesies that younger actors just don't know. I'm very comfortable with acting. And I couldn't think of anything I'd rather do: I don't have any save-theworld ideals. But certain situations are difficult, like when you hate the people you work

She owns her own produc-

tion company, but claims to have no long-term game plan. "Yeah, well, anyone can have one, you just have to register with the Government. I don't think I would know how to be a Hollywood player. 1 wouldn't do something cheesy just because I was going to make a ton of money."

1912 CHY reports on growing unease about the South Bank Centre's plans

k before you demolish



Whither the Hayward Gallery and Queen Elizabeth Hall?

are prised. That possibility horthe the many disonguished groups for whom the QEH somes as an irreplaceable Lon-tion base. Many say they would be lost without it. "file a deliberately provoca-

tive sustement to an orchestra se ters it would be a disas-Orchestra of the Age of En-Banks resident orchestras. "A tragesy, "says Val Bourne, dithe the several weeks each or The the QEH with enthuand the confirmers for contempoan care "Cultural suicide," or Stephen Petronia, whose

or smaller orchestras the other Central Lon-don senues are either the grant uneconomic. "At the and Alston, whose dance com-Hall you both sound As who remuscules says Quinto Bellardie, veteran in the good the English Chamwe Utenestra, "and the Wigmore our only take 13 nn its mattern. The QEH is terribly "could - there simply is no "Ter medium-sized venue." For contemporary dance the matter is even more urgent.

The at the OEH for ten years.

the 300-seat Place Theatre and the much larger Sadler's Wells which, after its rebuilding, charges more than most groups can pay. "A whole area of contemporary dance would not survive." she says. "Take away the QEH and you take away affordable contemporary dance." Petronio agrees "You would have top-end balket and nothing else." As far as the merits of replac-

ing the existing building go. oninions seem evenly divided. Many would be glad of a berter equipped and bigger stage, and especially of improved entertainment facilities for the all-important corporate sponsors. Orchestras complain, too, that the number of seats is too low to be economically viable. They would prefer 1,200 or even 1,500 to the present 900.

But others see nothing wrong that can't be fixed. Richpany appears annually at the QEH, says the hall is much maligned. "I'm certainly not asking for a new venue," he protests. "I have a lot of affection for it. It's not beautiful, but it's comfortable and audiences like it. It's nonsense to say they find it inhospitable."

Alston's view is supported by the half's impressive arrend-

tendance during its last threeweek season. The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment puts: its average figure at 90 per-cent. Petronio says that all his dates have sold out for as long as he can remember. "The testimony is that the audiences

go," he claims.
"The QEH is a bonne for many groups," Ballardie adds."
If they don't have a home, they will wither." Nobody denies that the South Bank is in urgent need of first aid, and most are hoping for the best, while waiting for the centre's still-embryonic plans to be fully fleshed out. But the message is that any prevarication over the new yenue will be fiercely. resisted. In that case, say all, better to stick with the present one, with all its limitations, than run the risk of losing such a vital resource for good.

RNCM — was one of them. Clearly, taking all the statis-

tics into account, this was rath-

the real McCoy, soaring and tender, alive with varied tex-tures, beguiling ears and testing the players by forcing alto and baritone saxes to play at the top of their range. No wonder the group removed their jackets to play it.
Pianist Kanac Furomoto

CONCERTS

trained at the Royal Academy of Music, sensibly stuck to red velvet dress. But was he choice of music wise? Tippett's Second Sonata emerged as though played under water, the force of its gnarled chords and sudden silences subdued. Furomoto also played some of Ligeti's Etudes and Michael Finnissy's balletic cut-ups. Strauss-Walzer, but never sounded happier than when she was trickling through Karen Tanaka's Crystalline II (imagine one of Messiaen's songbirds stalking a frozen pond). Chuntering Nymanesque riffs also featured in Gary Car-penter's mercurial suite Une

Earlier, Chamber Do-maine had demonstrated the thrill of watching young players successfully scaling Mount Everest Brian Ferneyhoug String Trio arrived with a score pasted on to oblong boards, with bits poking out top and bottom; players navigated the jungle of notes with exhilarating bravery and ex-

GEOFF BROWN

Oeuvre omelette good in parts

pressive force.

have been performed during the course of a weekend at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. But, philosophically, can it be said to have happened unless every one of them was heard by at least one person? In order to qualify that person could legitimately have left out the master. classes, seminars and children's events, but would have had to keep awake through 14 full-length concerts, five tea or coffee concerts and two candle-lit late-night events - all between Friday midday and Sunday evening.

Attendance at a Service of Contemplation at a penitential-

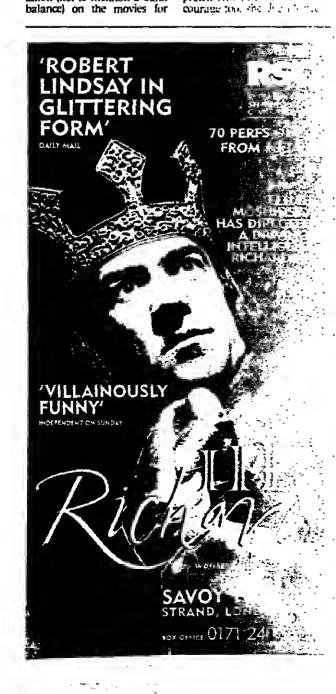
ly early hour on Sunday morning would not have been obligatory but, since that was the setting for the string-quartet version of the Seven Last Words from the Cross, it would obviously have been destrable. It would also have added one more to the tally of ensembles heard during the Haydness weekend. There were literally dozens of them, ranging from the amateur Adria Quartet to the evangelistic Wellspring Quartet and including at mid-alphabetical point the coyly named Quarnor Nostalgique made up largety of refugees from the full-time string-quartet tread-mill. The artistic director of the HaydnFest, Christopher Rowland — formerly of the Fitzwilliam Quartet, now director of chamber music at the

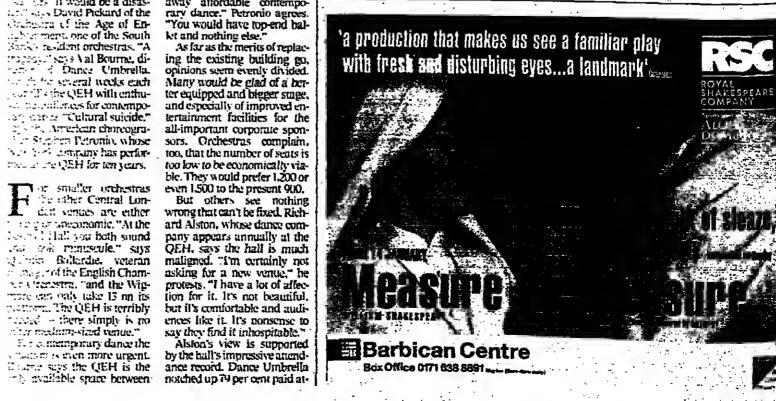
er different from the complete quartet performance delivered by a select group of Haydn specialists over the course of three weeks at the Edinburgh Festival a couple of years ago. Inevitably, with so many different ensembles involved, most of them assembled from students

of the RNCM School of Strings and entrusted with one work each, it was a patchy experience. It was more than an egg-eating competition of a dance marathon, however only one of those ad hoc quartets is inspired by the Hayun exposure to stay together and become another Brodsky it will have transcended its im-

achievement. The Brodsky Quartet, which emerged from the RNCM 20 years ago, was one of the five established string quartets which contributed a full-scale concert to the event. An exemplary exponent of textural clarity, unshakeably secure in ensemble and runing, technically impeccable in all but one or two details, it is just the group to demonstrate the inner wa-ings of Haydn's resource. string-quartet thinking. For a demonstration of the wit, the passion, the creative energy in these works, one would have to turn to an ensemble less discreet in its choice of tempi, less modest in expression, less cool in its general attitude.

GERALD LARNER



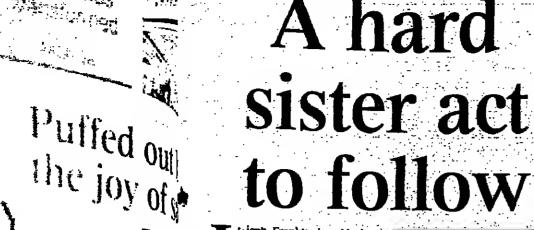


Demenica

of funny

ter .

By it 6d by **D** Water ... spired : pm : 12.



t isn't Frank's day. He has been in Düsseldorf selling health foods, and during his absence his mother-in-law has died. Since Europe is enduring a winter freeze, it has taken him I4 hours to get back to Yorkshire, and he has spent much of that time being bored by "a woman from Carlisle who runs a pupper theatre for the dear. And what happens when he arrives home? His wife Teresa and her two sisters are at each others' throats and, before long, at his too. "It's like marrying into the Borgias," decides Mark Lambert's doleful Frank

At best The Memory of Water is terrifically enjoyable. It puts you in mind of Ayckbourn, Bennett and Joe Orton: but the author is the almost unknown Shelagh Stephen-son, a dramatist with a sharp eye and a gift for quirky dialogue to match. Her play impressed at its premiere in Hampstead in 1996. and does so again now, though mainly when the funnier characters are given their heads. When Stephenson attempts to deepen the situation, her touch gets less sure. The time for the funeral ap-

proaches. Two sisters go eccentrically to pieces. The youngest and scattiest. Julia Sawalha's Catherine, bangs about in egomaniac disarray, maddening everyone else with her hypochondria, her psychologi-cal problems, her obsession with the latest of her 78 lovers. Meanwhile the oldest, Teresa, moves first into martyr mode and then, sensing that her self-sacrifices have not made the others feel guilty enough. spectacularly hits the bottle. Need 1 say that Alison Steadman rises



gi-comedy with intellectual pretensions, is a challenging genre and you become increasingly aware that while Teresa. Catherine and Frank exist primarily to provoke laughter, you are meant to care about the second sister. Samantha Bond's cool, incisive Mary. She is the family high-flyer, a 39-year-old doctor with a married lover, a longing for a child and an agonising secret in her past. She also has some emotionally loaded scenes with Margot Leicester as the ghost of the mother who loved and resented her.

it's weighty stuff, and so, in a dif-ferent way, is Stephenson's theme. which is the nature, the importance and the self-serving subjectivity of memory. But isn't there something self-conscious about her mentions of Alzheimer's disease and homeopathic theory and her attempts to relate them to sisterly arguments about Mum and the past? Similar ly, isn't there something troubling about a play which treats family politics with great intelligence, ye takes one of its victims more seriously than the others? Yes, but take comfort. You will probably be laughing too much at Stephenson's inventive dialogue and Terry John son's pacy production to worry.

BENEDICT **NIGHTINGALE**



هيئذر من ريدمل

Such devoted sisters: Julia Sawalha, Alison Steadman and Samantha Bond as the three siblings in Shelagb Stephenson's tragi-comic play, The Memory of Water

Demented feats of funny clay

ture, or do the mortal loseph Nadj's free adaptation of Buchner's Woyzeck, openng the London International Mime Festival, malleable clay. becomes the stuff of human es to create a deathly grey com-plexion, it is moulded into little figures and felt affectionately; at the apex of the violent and demented action a fullsized human bust of minutely. lifelike detail has its entire face sliced off and crushed. The human beings, in their turn, are treated like some kind of cheap raw material to be pressed into shape at the hands of the military authori-

Ocuvre one

200d in pa

Nadi has dispensed altogether with Büchner's text, exploring the themes of obsession and repression through fluid ensemble mime. The physical invention is breathtaking: at one point a soldier is "created" from scratch; a full-sized man thrown about in a blanket as if he were nothing but a strangeshaped rag and then inserted into a uniform nailed to a door. The constant threat of destruction overshadows the action: one character is decorated with a pair of nooses, knives are thrown about and apples and eggs crushed into pulp. When Woyzeck does eventually submit to his violent impulses, they are taken to cannibalistic extremes; the destruction of those around him being destruction of the



in order to overtake one another. The detailing is meticulous and understated; one character has a raining hat, another two real birds in a cage, anothpasses by unnoticed.

and choreography, this is si-lent theatre at its physically demanding best. The disturbing claustrophobia established on the shabby little stage is equal to anything attempted in the effects-rich world of cinema. and the overshadowing sense of wrongness is even more impressive for being largely unattached to any notion of plot or linear action. It seems a shame that the subject-matter is so esoteric, since this talented company is unlikely to convert any mimephobics to the cause.

leap into the textless void are likely be haunted by Nadj's horrible vision long after the demented action has finished.

self: whereon he begins to eat

There are great moments of including a surreal cycle race in which the competitors have to carry their vehicles around er produces whole eggs from thin air. Such little elements of magic take place almost inci-dentally, indeed the action on the stage is so rich that much

At the level of performance

However, those prepared to

^ HETTIE JUDAH

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament SHERIDAN SMITH

Age: 17.

Profession: "All-round entertainer," to quote her CV.

Where can she be seen? At the Donmar Warehouse for another five weeks in the revival of the 1987 Stephen Sondheim-James Lapine musical Into the Woods. As directed by John Crowley, Smith puts a delightfully blunt and impish Yorkshire spin on the character of Little Red Riding Hood, even if not a few American tourists have mistaken her North of England accent for Cockney.

A Yorkshire Red Riding Hood? And why not? At the auditions.

recalls the Doncaster native. "there was never any sense of 'You have got to do it this way.' It felt a bit strange doing the part in a posh accent, so I said, 'Would you mind me just trying it out in my own voice?" They said, "You do it however you feel best," and then when I actually got the part, I just kept on with it." Was it a taxing role?" I found that she was quite a lot like me, ac-

tually. Riding Hood comes across all sweet and innocent, when actually she's just this cheeky little thing who speaks her mind and eats a lot — which is a lot like me." Does' she come naturally by her talents? Sounds that way:

Smith's parents are country-and-western performers, and her 23-year-old brother is into Oasis and has his own band. The family has encouraged her through four years with the National Youth Music Theatre: three separate engagements playing the ti-tle role in Annie, and a West

End run as Talhilah in Bugsy Malone: "Mum and Dad have never pushed me to do anything. They always say, 'Are you still happy?' If I ever said no I'm not, they'd come and get me and take me So is she happy? Most definitely — "this is really exciring, the

biggest thing I've ever done" notwithstanding the seasonal perils of flu. "We've got all the medicines." Smith says of the show's distaff players, who share a dressing room. "It's just that time of year; touch wood, I've not been too bad."

MATT WOLF

OPERA: Rodney Milnes struggles with a pair of musical curiosities

Lurve in a cold climate

el Barber's grand romantic opera, was given a slap-up pre-miere at the New York Met in 1958, with the leading singers of the day in decor by Cecil Beaton, and has occasionally been revived. The first 8ritish performance was given on Monday by the Other my in the S at the Lyric Hammersmith; a reduced orchestration had been promised, but in the event the performance was accompa-nied by piano only and a (justifiably) defensive programme note about "workshop" conditions in preparation for a full-scale production. We have been warned.

Vanessa needs all the help it can get. Gian Carlo Menotti's libretto deals with "lurve" rather than love, in syntax that might bring a blush even to the cheek of Dame Barbara Cartland. The Scandinavian aristocras of the title has been waiting in her Nordic fastness for the return of her Lost Love for 20 years: he, or rather the Lost Love's son, turns up, instantly seduces Vanessa's niece Erika, but eventually goes off with Vanessa to start life afresh in their new mansion in Paris (delete Cardand, insert Daisy Ashford). At curtain-fall, Erika is left waiting. The characters, like those in certain plays by Rattigan and Coward, or indeed Poulene's Voix humaine, make sense only if Barber's score is unashamedly, efficiently neo-romantic: conventional ari-

you acknowledge that they are all men. as, duets and dance scenes, with a fine quintet to round the evening off. Much of it is very beauoful. 8ut in the context of earlier American operas like Porgy and Bess and Street Scene, not to mention what was happening in Europe (Billy Budd was already seven years old), it is in a time-warp, already a historical cu-

riosity.

And, quite apart from the absence of an orchestra, it received no help whatsoever. Healthy operanc voices made no concession to the tiny space — the sound level was ear-splitting — and the action was virtually undirected: characterisation, motivation even at this Mills and Boon level, were fatally ill-defined. The



Ear-splitting: Meryl Richardson (Vanessa) and Evan Bowers (Anatol)

otle role was cruelly miscast, and only the excellent mezzo Louise Mott (Erika) and the experienced Richard Angas (the would-be Chekhovian Doctor) emerged unscathed.

A brave effort, or irresponsibly foolhardy? Either way. I'm not sure this should ever have been out before a pay-

here's no getting away from it; The Golden Cockerel is a profoundly mysterious work. Why did the tsarist authorities react so violently to this fairytale fantasy, danger-ous only in its own over-lengthy inconsequentiality, and subversive only to the most paranoid of censors? Why did Rim-sky set it? Is it just the sensational success of Diaghilev's danced version, seen in London in 1914, that has given it the tag of Rimsky's best opera? (It isn't.)
What on earth is it about?
Oh, the hell with it, lie back and enjoy

the music, which is all Sadler's Wells audiences can do with any profit when faced with the Royal Opera's staging. hurling out images as varied as the Winter Palace-as-hospital and Boris Yeltsin as pop star in the hope that some will hit the mark, is little help: it's an evening for do-it-yourself decoders, if they can be bothered when the grey-box set offers little visual enchantment and the action is so innocent of fantasy, so joyless, with scarcely a laugh all evening. The language barrier is virtually insuperable: reading jokes on supertitles is not the same as hearing and watching them being delivered.

But with Gennady Rozhdestvensky at his most genial back in the pit after the illness that prevented him conducting the first night, the purely musical re-wards were substantial last Thursday: he loves this music, never hurries it, relishes Rimsky's near-parodistic "exotic" colouring, caresses the chamber-music delicacy of the instrumentation. The ROH Orchestra played beauofully for And the alternate cast boasted some

excellent singers, trying desperately to communicate with a numbed audience. Darina Takova's Queen of Shemakha was no mechanical nightingale: she has a really meaty, neo-spinto soprano with sufficient agility to skitter about above the stave — lovely. Vladimir Matorin (Dodon) both fields characteristically Russian, polished-granite bass sound and has delightfully mobile features: he came nearest to getting some of the com-edy across. His colleague from the Bolshoi, Mikhail Agafonov, negotiated the Astrologer's high notes fearlessly, not always beauofully, but certainly authentically. Anne Dawson (Cockerel), Gillian Knight (Amelfa) and Timothy Robinson (Guidon) sang strongly but were largely defeated by the staging. Thank heavens for Rozhdestvensky.

Several kisses short of a ball

very classical ballet company worth its salt needs a ballet like Michael Corder's Cinderella. His award-winning setting of the Prokofiev score is well stocked with fine classical writ-



ing, elegant and exhilarating choreography that penetrates deep within the corps and brings a regal sheen to the entire company. Corder's production, creat-ed for English National Ballet

1 1996, owes its allegiance to 19th-century Russia and tm-like Ashton's for the Royal Bal-let, nothing to English panto-mime. He frames the stage with shimmering ensemble work and he isn't afraid of thinking big in his set pieces: Cinderella's entrance to the ball is magnificent, the Act II pas de deux grandly declarative, and Act III's moonlit finale majestic

For the soloists, the choreography wears its emotions lightly but clearly. Cinderella's sadness is held in long melancholic phrases, while her fantasies are evinced in dances of felicity and grace. The Stepsisters move with staccato fire, pointedly devoid of charm.

The downside to Corder's production, now revived for EN8's winter season in London, is that it exposes weaknesses in the company's ranks. clous, a princess in waiting.

DANCE Control of

were considerable (although flu necessitated some hasty rearranging of casting). They were most evident in the four couples who make up the Fairies and their Cavaliers. Corder's writing for them is tricky - and proved 100 much. The leading couple, visitors

from the Boston Ballet, also disappointed Larissa Ponomarenko, trained in Russia, has the technical equipment necessary for Corder's heroine. She is a lovely stylist, allowing one phrase to melt into another most attractively. And her trapped butterfly of a Cinderella skims the stage in wonderfully fleet bourrées as she tries to find small delights in her life of drudgery.

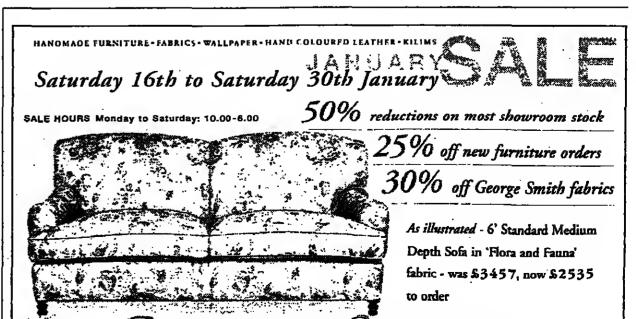
For someone who spends so much time cooking and cleanmg she is surprisingly graand on Monday night these. Yet when she meets her Prince

nothing happens. Remote and self-absorbed, her Cinderella could barely bring herself to look at the Frenchman Patrick Armand on Monday, and if they were radiating interpersonal warmth on stage it certainly didn't reach the stalls. Armand, for his part, looked

like a Prince with a lot on his mind. He rushed on to the stage in the ballroom scene already tense and bad-tempered. Yes, he has great finesse and strength as a dancer, but his demeanour was so grim that one wondered what he was doing at this party. Seeing Cinderella didn't improve his spirits either, and his Gallic hauteur never left him. ENB soloists Simone Clarke

and Elisabeth Miegge did the home team proud with their double act as the sniggering. mean-spirited Stepsisters who take great pleasure in taunting Cinders. The music was another plus. Patrick Flynn conducted Prokofiev's opulent score, encouraging ENB's Orchestra on to an impressive display of lushness and grandeur.

DEBRA CRAINE



HE BUTS WE

All the new films reviewed

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The great ceiling Missister Rosoropovich joins the LSO as soldist in the UK premiere of Sofia Gubaldulina's The Centicle of the Sun, Totalkovsky's Roccoo Variations and Saint-Saint Cellic Concerto No 1. Ryusuke Numerical Concerto No 1. Ryusuke

lumairi conducts. Sarbican (0171-638 8991). Tonight. I WEEP AT MY PIANO: Told By An Idiox regulars Hayley Carmethoel. Pachard Clews and Stephen Harper play Lorce, Dail and Burstel in a Institutionary specific

Mstislav Rostropovich

plays at the Barbican

hours. Paul Hunter directs. BAC (0171-223 2223). Opens longht, 8pm. (2)

SCHUMANN RECITAL: The Finnish sopring Sofia lackpale sings Schumann's Flautifiethe und -letter followed by songs by Strauss, Bernstein and Kuule. Wigmore Half (0171-935 2141).Tonight, 7.30pm.

POULENC FESTIVAL: The Royal Academy of Music celebrates the French composer's centenery with a concert of five of his works. Among the evening's toloists are the award winning soprano Estima Bell and barrione Christopher Mathren.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM; Continuing its 25th anniversary steams the Academy of Ancient Music arrives here with a concert performance of the 1711 version of Handel's opera Piraldo. Cecilla Bartoll, Ewa Podles and Gardid Piriley head an international cast. Christopher Howood conducts nristopher Hagwood conducts ony Hall (0121-212 3333). (6) LIVERPOOL: Petr Altrichter conducts the Royal Liverpool Philhermonic Overheatra in a performance of Beathwen's groundbreeking Fifth Symphony prefered by Heydin and

prantst Nikotal Demidenko joins the Halfé Orchestra to play Grieg's Piano Concerto. Trits is framed by works by Stotius and Vaughan Williams

NEW WEST END SHOWS

remy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London use full, returns only 🖸 Some seats available 🖂 Seats at all prices

ALEGRIA: The breathtakingly excho all ALEGRAF. The creamanary should be compared to Solel returns to London for the fourth successive year with further prodigious teats of confortions, teithal-footing trapeze acts, fire-eating and clowning Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) (6)

PERFECT DAYS: Slobban Redmond's PERFECT DAYS: Sotten Hearmon a award-warmp performance as the thirtysomething celebrity hardresser longing lox a beby John Tifany directs Lz Lochhead's pognant comedy. Hampstead (0171-722 9301) (5) THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE.

Dramatead reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Timed to coincide with this month's publication of the findings Tricycle Theatre (0171-328 1000) C KRAPP'S LAST TAPE: Edward

Sleadman, Samentha Bind and Julia Sawatha star in Shelagh Stephenson's acclaimed drama of family memones.

Terry Johnson directs Vaudeville (0171-836 9987) ☐ CHICAGO: Mena Friedman injects new blood into the hit revival of Kander and Ebb's musical about murder and ficitle fame.

Adetabl (0171-344 0055) ☐ JESUS MY 80Y: Tom Conti in John Down: 5 littlify amusing come giving Joseph's side of the story Apollo (0171-494 5070).

El PETER PAN: Justin Salinger plays the bile role, with David Troughton as Captain Hook, in return of Fiona Laint's enjoyable production. Officiar (0171-452 3000).

EI INTO THE WOODS: Sondham's nightmansh take on levounte tary tales, John Crowley directs the winter musical Donimer (0171-369 1732) 🖏

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

LITTLE VOICE (15): Mark Herman's wonderful version of Jim Cartwright's stage hit. Jane Horrocks sings glorious covers of terch song dives. Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor,

THE SIEGE (15): Derzei Weshingtert, Amerie Baning, and Bruce Wills Inp over each others' booleace as they by to deluse an Arab terrofest offensive in Manhatian. Chillingly real, beautifully acted. Director Edward Zwick lingers a real raw nerve.

PSYCHO (15): Hopeless remake of Hachcock's original. Gus Van Sant re-shoots this classic fear movie in colour, misses the ironies and mispleces the shuddering suspense.
With Vince Vaughn and Anne Heche
doing their worst to replace Anthony is and Janet Leigh.

z (Pi) (15): Low-budget sci-li adversure by David Aronolsky that charts the madness of a genus mathematician who is traunted by raghtmares and money-mad investors. Sean Guilette is the sing lead.

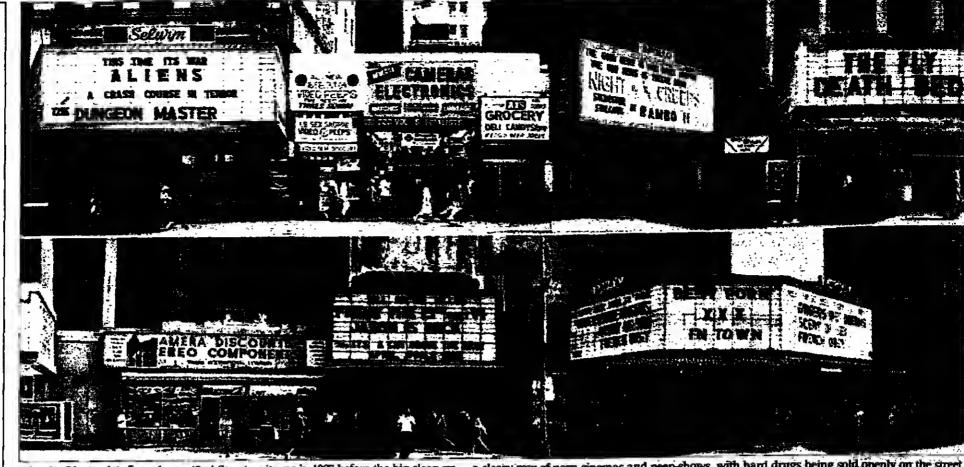
ANGEL DUST (ICA): Cool, classy Japanese melodrama about a psycho detective who has to nail her former lower and member for killings on the Tokyo tube. Sogo lists directs

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PO): A reassuringly Scratchy reprint of Howard Hawles's 1944 clause in which Lauren Bacall shoots felt in a

THE ACED HOUSE (18): Three darkly como tales of drugs, drink and halud-nation by Irvina Welsh. An indigestible onsleught With Stephen McCole, Ever SITCOM (18): A French bourgeois tarmly unbuttons deelt. Mildly dwening tampoon, excellently acted ensemble cast. Director, Francois Ozort.

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG) Painth Stewart's Enterprise crew come to the rescue of a peaceable race who have found the elicit of youth Lightly Breable Director, Jonathan Frakes ENEMY OF THE STATE (15): WE Smith's lawyer rumbles upon a politic conspiracy. Exetung fast-paced thrill with Gene Hadiman and Jon Voight. WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15): Robin Williams wades through the sitesfile bying to find his loved ones. Technically dazding, but sabotaged by a woolly songt With Arresbelle Scions. Cuba Gooding Jr., May Von Sydow





Not the Big Apple's finest bour: 42nd Street as it was in 1987 before the big clean-up - a sleazy row of porn cinemas and peep shows, with hard drugs being sold openly on the street

Miracle on 42nd Street

New York's seediest block has been reborn as the heart of theatreland.

Benedict Nightingale reports

ome 15 years ago I walked with a New York drama critic through what had been the heart of America's theatreland, the section of 42nd Street that links 7th and 8th Avenues. "It's worse than Calcutta," he said. If anything, he understated. No amputees were begging for rupees; but there were homeless people pushing shopping carts crammed with bric-à-brac, drug peddlers in hoods whispering "smoke? smoke?", prostitutes, porn shops, peep-shows, seedy cine-mas offering XXX-rated movies, and no doubt crack houses behind the sleaze and stink.

But imagine Calcutta transformed into downtown Sydney or Cardboard City into an urban Olympus comprising the best of Piocadilly. Shaftesbury Avenue and Covent Garden. Within the past three years 42nd Street has been reinvented, acquiring three renovated theatres in the process. including the most beautiful (have ever seen. And by 2002 when more playhouses, no fewer than 39 new cinema screens, restaurants, and a branch of Madame Tussaud's will be active - New York's old, decaying heart will have

had a transplant. Back in the 1890s and early 1900s this was where the big fashionable theatres were built - 12 in all. Here, New Yorkers saw musicals by Gershwin. Porter and Berlin,

W.C. Fields, Tallulah Bankhead, Bea Lillie, Gertie Lawrence and Mary Pickford. John Barrymore's celebrated Hamlet, Coward and Olivier in the American premiere of Private Lives. Before the stock market crash, and occasionally even after, 42nd Street (and this block in particular) was more the Great White Way than Broadway itself.

But in the 1920s and 1930s

the theatres north of 42nd

Street grew in number and importance, and those that survived on the street dwindled first into burlesque houses. then into tacky cinemas. In the late 1970s the city fathers committed themselves to redeveloping the block, but the only visible result was yet more deplans, and studies of plans. but nothing happened," says Cora Cahan, president of New 42nd Street, the non-profit organisation that was eventually asked to oversee the regeneration of the block, and specifically of its disused theatres.

That was in 1990, by when the street was, in Cahan's words, "a black hole, the belly of the beast, the saddest place in Manhanan". Its public telephones were in effect offices for drug-dealers. People walk-ing to New York's bus terminal at 42nd and 8th often made detours down 41st or 43rd Street because the obvious route was so crime-ridden, Cahan has seen undercover cops

Today, Disney and others have revitalised the historic theatres with family entertainment

open to the rain. Fungi grew in

the stalls. Falls of plaster had

turned the stairs into a ski-

pulling guns on the block, and shops had closed, the builders gangs started a shoot-out.

New 42nd Street's board de- New Yorkers pressing their cided it did not wish to transform the strip into a spurious Champs-Elysèes, still less a pedestrian precinct or mall. It would remain a main artery. teeming with cars, but with its old grace and glitz restored.

ut how to accomplish this, given problems that ranged from endless ranged from endless lawsuits by landowners fighting slum-clearance orders to the arrival of a Republican Mayor with a strong belief in market forces? The first key decision was to use much of the money allocated by the previous administration on renovating one smallish theatre, the

So in 1995, before the porn

once had to take cover when removed their lences to reveal a dead pigeon. On one freezan edifice that had cynical ing day stalactites drooped noses against its glass doors in disbelief. There, complete with the gorgeous double-staircase entrance removed 60 years earlier, was a theatre specialising in work for young people and offering tickets as cheap as \$6 window on to 42nd Street. for visiting shows that recently included our own Young Vics

Grimm Tales. Then came a second, even more crucial event. The Disney Organisation decided it needed its own New York theatre, and agreed to spend \$35 million renovating the New Amsterdam on the south of 42nd Street. Cahan remembers her trips to the derelict theatre with Disney's top brass. The roof was

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slope incongruously topped by from a chandelier. All that the suicidal Ziegfeld girl who haunts the New Amsterdam's roof and was once seen by a se-

two years later was presenting The Lion King in a theatre that might have been decorated by Della Robbia and Burne-Jones. Everywhere there is a inural some Art Nouveau glass, or a carving in plaster. marble, timber or porcelain to enjoy. Look up, and there are wonderfully sculpted nymphs. Wander about and you find a huge baronial fireplace behind the stalls, paintings of historic New York in the crypt-

evoking Wagner and Shake-speare, the Victory of Art over. Falsehood and a myriad other panels. If you think of Disney only in terms of cute toy bugs. people (and there are plenty of those in the store it has opened next door) see the New Amsterdam and think again.

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t any rate its opening gave heart to developers and prospective tenants. Canada's Livent Organisation transformed the Apollo and Lyric thearres into the Ford Cernre. New York's best-equipped playhouse. A leading company, the Roundabout, is to occupy the rebuilt Selwyn Theatre. A 25-screen cinema complex will soon open on the south side, and another, with 14 screens, will be part of a vast "entertainment walk" with shops, restaurants and a hotel

on the north. So it goes on. HMV is to open a store on the south. Revters will build its new home on the north. New 42nd Street has yet to decide the future of Times Square Theatre, where The Front Page and Gentlemen Prefer Blondes had their premieres, but is raising a tenstorey edifice containing dance and drama studios and a 200-seat theatre for Off-Broadway companies.

At night light will be played on to this building's glass front, creating the effect of a shimmering spire that will pulsate with colour. Could there be an apter symbol of the transformation of what was arguably America's grottiest city block into its most improbably

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like smoking room, friezes

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999

RACING: CLASSIFICATIONS UNDERLINE LACK OF QUALITY IN SPEED AND STAMINA DIVISIONS

Top performers take middle ground

THE end-of-term report on the Flat class of 1998 admonishes breeders that they could try harder in their two weakest subjects, pure speed and applied stamina. For while the international Classifications, unveiled by a panel of handicappers in London yesterday, sustains an overall strength in depth, there appears a distinct

fraying at the edges.

Elnadim, so disappointing after winning the July Cup, is leading European sprinter with a rating (121) that further exacerbates. exacerbates the decaying standard of recent years. The average rating over the past decade is 125.7, compared with one of 129.5 for champion milers and 132.7 for the top horses over 12 furlongs.

Stayers, meanwhile, continue to be perceived as gawky and unglamorous on the bloodstock catwalk. Though the cup races once again pro-

RICHARD EVANS

isation gr



cles of the entire calendar, at 120 the top stayer, Kayl Tara. could not match even the

bleak ten-year average of 121.1. Their plight is familiar. Yesterday's figures, however, confirm a corresponding dilution at the other end of the spectrum. Though there is always a pragmatic demand at the sales for sharp, precocious types, it would appear that naked speed is being treated as a slightly downmarket aspi-

Geoffrey Gibbs, the panel chairman, said: "The speed division and, to an extent, the distance division have both be-come less competitive. Dayjur was the last outstanding sprinter and even he set out to be a miler and became a sprinter almost by mistake. Dick-Hern himself said that he never so misjudged a horse."

Stallions command a greater commercial following over \$2 7795 types dip their toes into classic water — Ajdal even ran in the Derby — before finding their metier as sprinters. A similar fate will befall some of those at the top of the 1998 juvenile ratings, which are headed by two colts with obvious stamina

limitations. Mujahid a son of Danzie trained for Hamdan al-Maktourn by John Duniop, is hampion after carning a rating of 123 with his exposure of Stravinsky and company in he Dewhurst Stakes. Connecions have already expressed heir reservations about a nile, however, and there must e similar questions over Luain (122). He bolted up in the - Middle Park Stakes over six urlongs, but then ran a disap-pointing race in the Dewhurst. With Arazi and Celtic Swing caving reached a giddy 130, Mujahid may look one of the nore anonymous champion ju-

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

30 (7) 1, Glastonbury (T Spraka, 4-1 (5 A), 2, Hiddle (10-1); 3, Annie Apple (5-1). 1 ran, NR: Zole Power 31, 2-1 P Howling 3odatming) Tota: 95,40; 91,90, 25,40, 1 30, DF 532,20, CSF: 542,04. There las no bid for the win

pis no bid for the waret. 100 (5) 1. Tear White (Lisa Hackett, 11.2, Classy Clae (15-2); 3. Soeked (6-4 v), 8 ran NK, 111 T Mills (Epoon) Total 330: £130, £230, £100. DF: £1200 SF: £23.53. Tricaet: £41.17.

30 (1m) 1. Love Diamonds (Desri McK-wn, 6-4 tav); 2. Malchit (7-1); 3. Pacinck Inspection (10-1), 6 gen 8, 11. M hinsten (McGieham). Tota: 52.50; 1.20, £1.80. DF. £5.50. CSF: £11.19.

00 (1m) 1. Marwhath (P Fredericks, 3-1), 2 Woolly Winsome (10-1); 3, Grand cronel (14-1). Oudalmuseens 4-1 fav. 11 n. 3t. 1/4 Miss Gey Kelleway (Lingfield). Ner 522-50; 52:00, 51:80, 52:00. DF: 10:60 CSF: 5313-83.

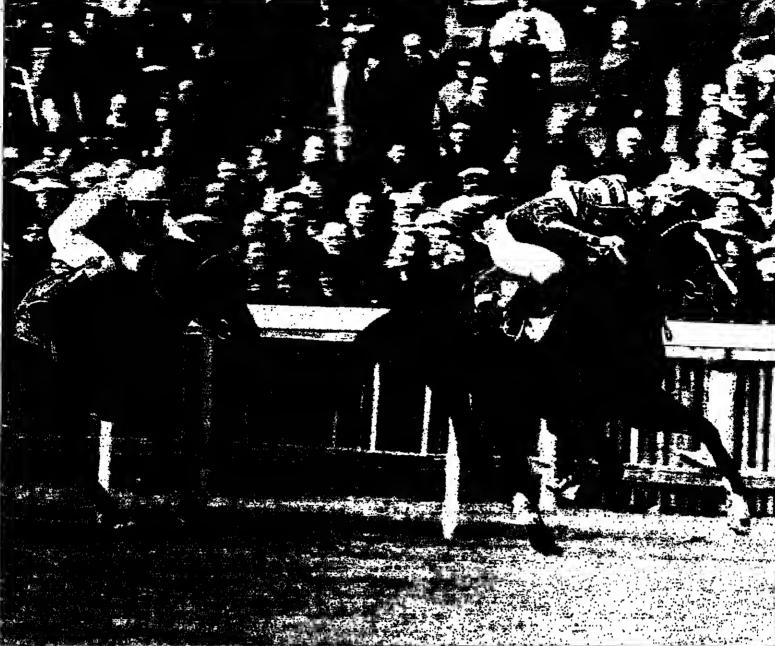
30 (1m 2) 1, Philister (P Dobbe, 10-1), Key To The Cey (14-1); 3, Kings Arrow 2), Hewissbill Henry (40) 9-4 fav, 9 ran 1 J. K Burke (Wantage), Tote, £12.80; 80, £3.40, £1 lb. DF: £39.20, Tote Tri-32, £601 00. CSF: £134.70, Tricest: 45.15

sciopat: £19,451.00.

acapot: 263.60.

sadpot: £27.10.

ingfield Park



Mujahid heads the two-year-old classification after his fine victory over Auction House in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket in October

veniles. But, as Matthew Tester, the two-year-olds' handicapper, said. The exciting thing this year is that you can go down the list and find eight or so horses that wouldn't sur-

Guineas. The Dewhurst didn't settle the issue. Whereas last year you could be reasonably confident that Xaar would win the Guineas if he ran up to his Dewhurst form (127), this time prise you if they were to win a the game is up for grabs.

LEADING TWO-YEAR-OLDS OF 1998

MUJAHIO (J Dunlop) (D Loder) (Seeed Bin Surgor) AUCTION HOUSE (8 Hills) ORPEN -- (A O'Brien)-WAY OF LIGHT (P Bery) COMMANDER COLLINS

STRAVINSKY (A O'Brien) BLACK AMBER (N Callaghan) ENRIQUE (H Cecil) BINT ALLAYL (M Channon) EXEAT (J Gosden) JOSR ALGARHOUD (M Channon) 115

Won Dewhurst Stakes Won Middle Park Stakes Won Prix de la Salamandre 2nd Dewhurst Stakes Won Prix Morray Won Grend Criterium 2nd Prix de la Salamandre

Wori Prix Robert Papin Won Lowther Stakes Won Gimcrack Stakes 115 Won Criterium de Saint-Cloud

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115

REVOQUE ALHAARTH CELTIC SWING 130 GRAND LODGE ARÁZI . 130 HECTOR PROTECTOR 126-MACHIAVELLIAN . . . HIGH ESTATE

1986 REFERENCE POINT 127

No group one wins French Derby St James's Palace Stakes 2,000 Guineas No group one wins French 2,000 Guineas Prix Jacques le Marois No group one wins No group one wins 125 1,000 Guineas, French 1,000 Guineas

Queen Elizabeth II Stakes

Derby, King George, St Leger

"For Lujain, it was probably a race too far. Few genuine milers show that much speed. That's not to say he won't win a group one over a mile, but his inherent speed would be the weapon that enables him to do that."

A marked feature among the juveniles is the poor showing of the French, matched for the first time by the improved Irish. Even among their sen-iors, the unbeaten Arc winner, Sagamix, could not rival his contemporaries, Desert Prince (128), Dr Fong and High-Rise (127). At 126, he compares pretty mortally to the previous Arc winner, Peintre Celebre (136).

Godolphin's marvellous year dominates the Classifications. Among 28 representatives, it can celebrate the overall European champion, In-tikhab, who managed a rating of 130 despite the injury that prevented him contesting a group one race. He is rated IIb ahead of his superbly brave and versatile stablemate, Swain, whose second King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes win is considered 2lb better than his ooble efforts in Dubai and the

United States. On dirt, he rubbed shoulders with some outstanding American older horses, including the Classifications' top performer in Skip Away (131). Awesome Again (130) and Swain's old foe, Silver Charm

Gifford rallies to Hide's defence

By CHRIS McGrath

NOBODY was going to look that good, matched against Tony McCoy at his most in-domitable on Eudipe, but there were undoubtedly those at Sandown on Saturday who considered Philip Hide particularly embarrassed by the contrast to his riding of Glitter Isle in the Mildmay-Cazaler Chase. Hide appeared to have matters under cootrol from some way out, but Glitter Isle lost vital momeotum at the last fence, allowing McCoy to

drive Eudipe past on the hill. Yesterday, Josh Gifford mounted an indignant de-fence of Hide, who lost his post as stable jockey at Fiod-on last April, but still rides many of the trainer's horses. "People are quick to have a go, but they only notice what happens in the closing stages," Gifford said.

What happens in the country is also important and Philip had the horse jumping like a buck. Did anybody notice that? If our horse had been able to come from behind, you might have seen a different result. He went to the last with the race won, but he stopped and popped and the other horse landed running."
Gifford matched words

with deeds, confirming that Hide would ride Mandys Mantino in the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot on Satur-day. Ridden as usual by Hide, Mandys Mantino ran a fine third to Direct Route in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown last month. "I do think he's harshly handicapped." Gifford said. "But he's very

well." Though Edredon Bleu may miss the race on account of the softening ground, there re-main plenty of well-fancied obstructions, notably Get Real (3-1 from 7-2 yesterday) and Monnaie Forte (6-1 from 9-1). Teeton Mill brilliant win-

ner of the King George Vi Chase, will warm up for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup over the undulations of the Cotswold course itself in the Pillar Chase on January 30. rather than the Peler Marsh at Haydock on Saturday week.

Venetia Williams also confirmed that the Martell Grand National remains an option for Tecton Mill.

KEMPTON PARK THUNDERER

1.15 Charlie Banker 1.50 Masamadas 2.20 Native Charm

2.55 Arctic Chanter 3.25 EXECUTIVE KING (nap)

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.15 ROYAL MAIL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (52,766 2m 5f) (13 rusners)

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1.50 WALTON JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

2.20 EASTER HERO HANDICAP CHASE

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2.55 WILLIAM HILL HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND

TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (Handicap: £5,504. 3m 110yd) (18 runners)

Long handicap, Royal Arch. 9-12. Ht Heder 9-7, Smuggier's Point 8-3.
BETTING 7-2 Arch. Chanen 5-1 Be My Mol. 8-1 Native Field, Smith Too, 10-1 Subwess Weish Sm. 12-1 Alarn:
Int. Sophie May, 16-1 chanes. 1998 TOMPETOD 7-11-0 C Literative (3.1 len) N Tector-Davies 15 cm

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3.25 HANWORTH HANDICAP CHASE

(£5,472, 3m) (4 junners)

501 221/33 RNG LUCIFER 25 (D.F.G.S) (Mr.: A Danes) O Natholson 10-11-10 ... A Maguare 131 502 191-PP RAMALLAR 27 (6.5) (Madens Genen Pathersho) (Mr.: A Historian 10-11-1 J Cullory 137 503 25-13 BANK AMERIC 88 (CD.S) (5 Henston) (M Prima 8-10-10 ... T J Marphy 125 504 -11114 EXECUTIVE KING 18 (CD.S) (6 Hubbard) 6 Hubbard 8-10-7 ... A P Mr.Coy [158] BETTRIG 7-4 Executive king, 2-1 king Lucilor, 5-2 Sant Avenue, 8-1 Familian

FORM FOCUS King Leader 23 ato of 7 to fortial Enterts in tendicap chase of Assat 10 and 10 an

EXECUTIVE NATIO unable to dictate when below his best based, should get things his man way her

4.00 ASHFORD NOVICES HURDLE BETTING 5-2 fem : Coverns, 7-2 Darckir 19-2 Stepheam Star 7-1 Landaki, Magic Clicks, 8-1 Mg Lica Tou

1986 ROAD RACER 5-11-4 J F McCamy (7-4 tar) F R Wilder 14 Jun

1998 ROAD RACER 5-11-4 JF Accionn (2-4 tay) 7 R Witten 14 jun

FORM FOCUS

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FERRY'S GOVERNOR can out an impressive names on his houdes box and can follow up

COURSE SPECIALISTS

) Grazione A Magnine T J Musphy R Guestooth M Filippanid C Lieutellyn C filipud: D Michalton C Maun C Tarcton-Dunes O Sherwood Mr. J Pilman N Hemberton

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Kompton Park: 1.50 Sabre Bull. 2.55

Sedgefield called off, Wetherby to inspect

BY OUR RACING STAFF

THE Sedgefield meeting scheduled for today is the latest casualty of the current cold snap with frost and snow combining to force the abandonment of the card at an inspection yesterday afternoon. A spokeswoman for Sedgefield said: "There is frost and snow on the track. It is thaw-

ing but there is a hard frost forecast." Kempton Park expects to get the National Hunt show back on the road today, but tonorrow's fourte at Wetherby is reportedly "in the balance"

with a 3pm inspection called for today.

A spokesman for the course, where the high-class hurdler, Princeful, is set to make his chasing debut, said yesterday: 'It depends what weather we

We have still got snow and frost on the course but the forecast says it will clear. "It is a question of whether it clears in time. The forecast

is encouraging but at the moment the meeting is in the halance." Hopes are high, bowever, -

A course spokeswoman able to race today."

Musselburgh officials have their "fingers crossed" for Fri-day's meeting. "We still have some frost in the ground and frost is forecast for tonight and Wednesday.

However, it is forecast to be-come milder from Thursday night. We are keeping our fingers crossed," a course spokesman said. The going is described as good, good to soft Yesterday was a blank day

for jump racing, with the meetings at Leicester and Newcas tle both abandoned. Only the ail-weather Flat meeting at Lingfield Park survived. Meanwhile, there have been encouraging bulletins on former jockeys-turnedtrainers, Paul Kelleway and

Tommy Stack. Kelleway, 58, now retired, is reported to have won the first round in his battle against pancreatic cancer.

His daughter, Gay, said yesterday: "The doctors at Cromwell Hospital in London say that they have contained the cancer and you can't believe how relieved the family is. He has lost a great deal of weight but will soon be off to

Stack, 53, taken ill with meningitis last month, has re-

MEYERHAMPTON

1.00 Doberman. 1.30 Pride Of Bridon. 2.00 Ice

Age. 2.35 Muddy Water, 3.05 White Plains. 3.40 Burning. 4.10 Sudest. GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.00 BASIL SELLING STAKES (Div I; £1,489: 1m 100yd) (8 nunners)

1.30 COGNAC HANDICAP (£2,775 51) (12)

1 (8) 110- PRODE OF SRICTION 25 (CD) P Earls 6-10-0 C Cogun (7) 1
2 (6) 12-0 ALJAZ 5 (CD.S) Miss 6 Kellenon 9-9 (2 — W Ryam 7) (10) 40-0 MANTEAMAR 5 (B.D.G.S) S Bowden 6-9 C Teaque (3) 4 (4) 005- SELICIR POSE 93 (D.G.) Loven 4-9 5 — A Colhinne 1 5 (12) 02-0 VILLAGE MATINE 11 (B.CD.S) k C Brown 6-9-3 R Proce (11) 80-0 FEATHERSTONE LANE 4 (CD.P) Miss 1 Sedari 6-9-2 Dear Microprof. Forton 6-9-3 R Proce (11) 80-0 FEATHERSTONE LANE 4 (CD.P) Miss 1 Sedari 6-9-2 Dear Microprof. 7-2 Solonian, 11-2 Dieler's Surprise, 6-1 Afige. 13-2 Pisch Of Braton, 7-1 Strap Hot. 8-1 Akademia, 10-1 Village Kaline, Nable Patect, 14-1 others

2.00 CHINA CLAIMING STAKES (\$2,107: 61) (4) 1 (4) 04-1 SUE MES (D.F.S) D Notatells 7-10-0 ___ P Charles (7) 76-2 (1) 20-3 PDLAR MEST S (V.CD) Mes N Maccadey 4-9-10

1-8 See May, 2-1 Polar Mag, 5-2 ice Age, 16-1 Backhander

COURSE SPECIALISTS

2.35 MALIBU MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-D: £2.879: 6f) (12)

(3-1-W 22.075 OF 1.72)
(71) OO-ARLE PETE B3 O CARDON 9-0
(70) OO2-AVENGRIG ANGEL 39 N Lancock 8-9
(712) O-BREEN KELOV 53 B Michano 8-9
(711) OO-FIMA ROSE 101 R MACHANIA 8-9
(71) OO-FIMA ROSE 101 R MACHANIA 8-9
(71) O-BREEN KELOV 56 D Mark 8-9
(71) O-BREEN KELOW 56 D Mark 8-9
(71) O-BREEN KELOW 50 D Mark 8-9
(72) OG-MIDDOY WITER 56 D Mark 8-9
(73) OG-SHADOY WITER 56 D Mark 8-9
(74) OG-SHADOY WITER 56 D Mark 8-9
(75) OG-MIDDOY WITER 56 D Mark 8-9
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(78) O 5 21a Pazza, 7-2 Aurogong Porget (5-1 Stander, 7-1 Red Verus, 19see Bair Tress, 8-1 Hallon's Wildong, 16-1 Acre Pass, Muddy Wass, 20-1 Official

3.05 JAFFA HANDICAP (£6,185, 1m 1f 79;c) (10)

(£0, 180. 117: 117 (57£) (107)

1 (4) 561- WEET-A-WALTE 16 (DD.F.6) & Hobrichead C-10-0
2 (3) C25- ITALAM SIMPHORN C2 (N.6) F Franc 5-98 (C.Copan 7) 95
3 (6) 22-0 WHITE PLANES 11 (EF 0.5) F Burn 6-94 D Symphory 95
4 (7) 22-3 56 WARTED 11 (N.C.O.G.S.) Peace 8-9-3 A Post (3) 86
5 (3) C00- PRS 56 USBACKES 22 (10) F Jair 4-9 D Dean Makkoom 88
5 (1) 12-1 JREFEER 11 (F G.S.) F Frontog 7-8-12 (S. Whithouth 95
7 (8) 11-1 MALY SIMPLE 11 (F G.S.) F Frontog 7-8-12 (S. Whithouth 95
8 (10) 212- MASTER CASTER 41 (8F F) 6 WALTON 4-8 (D. C.) 98
9 (9) 212- MASTER CASTER 41 (8F F) 6 WALTON 4-8 (D. C.) Danin 98
10 (2) P20- MOSCOW LTGT 127 5 Palung 8-12 (D. C.) Danin 98 7-2 Hold Street 6-1 Mest-6-42 rice (see ret. 13-2 Dam Chartest 7-1 Rates Juni-gram, Jacob Caster 6-1 Be Alames 10-1 offers

3.40 BASIL SELLING STAKES (Div II: £1,489: 1m 100yd) (6)

| 22 15-2 BURNESS | BF CD.D | 6 LEDNOR | 7-9-5 | D. SANDOR | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | D. SANDOR | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7-9-5 | 7 5-4 Barong, 9-7 (2015), 7-5-1 Chap Monier, Americo Gol. 10-1 Madare Min 12-1 Salod Let, 14-1 Detail 15-1 Earthogh

4.10 JERICHO HANDICAP (\$2,749: 1m 6f 166yd) (6)

1 C3 90-1 SUDEST 4 (C.F.) Fadore; 5-10-5 (ca.) ... 5 Whewarth 62 (2) 04-1 WHITLEY GRANGE BOY 9 (5) J.Em. 6 10-1 (Ga.) ... C. Lowdor 58 (4) 501- ARCTIC THURDER 28 (CD.F.S.S) 8 Palling 9-9 1... ... A Polit (3) 72 4 (6) 04-2 CHARROE 9 (F) P. Guitgan 5-9-9 A Polit (3) 50 (5) 456- PRIEMER DAMCE 116 (CD.F) D Hayron Jone: 12-6-9 5 Drowner 7. 6 (1) 5-34 EVEZIO RUFO 2 (V.C.S) II Literacien 7-7-12 R Thomas (7) [78] 6-4 Suded, 7-2 ktfeder, Garage St. 7-1 April Charge 5-1 Errorn Hullo 18 1 Char-

RACELINE for tomorrow's meeting at EMPTON 101 201 102 202 WHAMPTON 103 203 a rehabilitation clinic in Switsaid: We're very confident. At the moment there are no problems and we would have been

CYCLING

Riis issues strong denial over new claims

By JEREMY WHITTLE

BJARNE RIIS, the winner of the Tour de France in 1996, and Deutsche Telekom, his team, have issued furious denials after allegations against them in the Danish media of systematic blood doping.

Riis, who caused controversy in Denmark during the scandal-ridden Tour de France last year with his refusal lo condemn categorically the use of erythropoieon (EPO), the performance-en-hancing blood agent, beat Miguel Induráin, of Spain, the five-omes Tour winner, dur-ing the 1996 Tour, after

finishing third in 1995. The latest allegations centre on Riis's widely-varying red blood cell count in July 1995, when he consistently chal-lenged Induráin in the Tour's time-trials. According to a television documentary, Riis's haematocrit (red blood cell count). tested privately by his team, ranged between 41.1 per cent in January 1995 and 56.3 per cent on July 10, 1995, days after the Dane wore the Tour race

leader's yellow jersey. Under guidelines laid down by the International Cycling Union, riders tested with haematocrit levels in excess of 50 per cent are automaocally prevented from racing to



Riis: denies allegations

safeguard their health. These delines were introduced in 1997, as the fears over widespread use of EPO gained

ground.
"The documents shown in the programme are dubious and we don't know where they came from," a Telekom team spokesman said. "They don't

prove anything."
Riis has denied that the figures refer to his blood count. Those figures aren't mine." he said. "Anybody can come up with a piece of paper. I don't even remember having my blood tested on that day. Of course I have never used

After his third-place finish in the 1995 Tour, Riis left Gewiss to join the Telekom team in 1996. His arrival transformed the German team. with his own Tour victory in 1996 and that of Jan Ullrich, his prodigious young team-mate, the following summer. During the Tour last summer, when both Riis, who acted as the riders' spokesperson, and Ullrich emerged unscathed from a race ravaged by doping scandals, Deutsche Telekom officials announced their inten-tion to invest in anti-doping measures as part of a new openness in the sport, "All our riders are clean,"

Telekom insisted yesterday. They are subject to daily medical controls and even to independent controls. The authorioes can come and inspect us any time,"

Laurent Jalabert, the former

world No I, was also implicated in the programme, which claimed to have found bin bags of used syringes and ampoules of EPO in a hotel room used by Jalabert's ONCE team during the 1995 Tour of Spain. Jalabert and his ONCE team-mates stormed out of the Tour de France last July in protest after a series of police raids and arrests.



Yellow peril: Le Marquand lines up a shot with one of his unique coloured bowls at the world indoor championships

Colour issue exposes bowls bias

agreed. "I think they look dreadful," he said, "and so

big. As a player, I wouldn't

want to leave just one yellow bowl in the head, because

they present such an inviting

the charismatic Australian.

gave the idea his approval.

They introduce a modern

look and spice the game up a bit. I'm just 8 bit concerned about the set that David is

playing with, because they

This latest development

was ratified by the World

Bowls Board and the World

Indoor Bowls Council at a

meeting during the Common

wealth Games in Kuala Lumpur and the use of col-

oured bowls has been permit-

Le Marquand volunteered

ted from January 1.

look very straight to me."

However, lan Schuback,

target for the opponent."

A LITTLE piece of bowls history was made at Potters Leisure Resort on the Norfolk coast yesterday when David Le Marquand, a potato grower from Jersey, became the first competitor to use coloured bowls in the world indoor singles champion-

Spectators, accustomed to sombre shades of black and brown, looked oo in disbelief as the bright yellow bowls rolled up and down the porta-ble rink. The bowls attracted a lot of attention and provoked some ribald comments, but Le Marquand handled them, and the situatioo, astutely, giving Robert Weale a tremendous fight before the Welsh champion of 1997 edged home 6-7, 7-0, 7-1, 0-7,

The introduction of coloured bowls, which are being developed and marketed by By DAVID RHYS JONES

Taylor Bowls, a long-estab-lished Scottish firm of bowls manufacturers, is likely to divide bowls into two carros the traditionalists and the reformists.

The launch yesterday was acclaimed by some, who felt that the bowls added a new dimension to the game, making it more attractive, particularly to youngsters, but it was scorned by others, who be-lieve that coloured bowls will create problems.

Robert Newman, at 24 one of the youngest competitors, said: "I can't see them taking off. Club bowlers are not gomg to boy them and it's going to be a tremendous problem for the retailers, who already have to stock different makes, sizes and weights."

Willie Wood, one of the elder statesmen, sport's

Qui5 Rxc1+ Qub7 Qub5 Ru7 Ru8 a5 Qub5 Rb8 Qb8 Rh7 Kg8

Diagram of final position

Diagram of linal position

| Samuel Control of the
a b c d a f g h

White Westra

Black: Thiruchelvam

to use the coloured bowls af-ter his own black bowls failed the green test at the weekend. when he arrived at Potters. There was an awkward moment when the yellow bowls also failed their first green test, but a further test proved that they were sufficiently bi-ased and he took to the green proudly carrying his yellow

Paul Ingrouille, of Guern-sey, was defeated in straight sets, 7-6, 7-1, 7-1, by Sandy Syme, the Scottish champion. from Coathridge, where the world championships were first played 20 years ago.

Alex Marshall, from East Lothian, a former world pairs: champion, indoors and out, was delighted to scrape bome 2-7, 7-2, 7-5, 1-7, 7-3 against Bil-ly Mellors, of Edinburgh, one of the brightest young pros-pects on the Scottish bowls

Maier digs Freshwater deep to extend his hat-trick in advantage

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HERMANN MAIER, of Austria, kept his nerve on the treacherous Kuonisbergli piste, in Adelboden, Switzerland, yesterday to secure a World Cup giant statem victory and steal the limelight from Benjamin Raich, his team-mate.

The Olympic champion had promised revenge after finishing third behind Raich in a giant statom race in his home town of Flachau last Sunday. Yesterday, Maier was as good as his word as he completed his sixth victory of the season with a combined time over the two runs of 2min 12.66sec.

Kjetil Andre Aamodt, of Norway, Maier's main rival in the overall World Cup standings, finished second in 2min 12.94sec. It was his first podium finish in giant slalom this season. Raich, who was chasing his third win in six days and who led the field after the first leg, finished third.

Bothered by a sore back that forced him to take painkillers before the race, Maier said that he had been considering missing the next races, in Wen-gen and Kitzbühel, to rest be-fore the world championships in Vail, Colorado, next month. However, with Asmodt keeping up the pressure, he intends to talk to team doctors.

Tm not sure about my pro-gramme, I'll make a decision soon," Maier, who tops the overall rankings with 911 points, 228 clear of Aamodt, said."I have to think seriously about it because Aamodt is so close now."

Michael von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, retained the lead from Maier in the giant slalom standings by two points. Second after the first leg. Maier was at his best on his second run, showing no signs of pain or discomfort to record a time of imin 6.86sec.

Raich also charged down the course, but a costly error at. the start of his run denied the 20-year-old another fine victory. I had no problem with the pressure," Raich, five times a junior world champion, said. Twe raced from the front be-fore and know that kind of pressure. I'm just pleased to be on the podium after making a mistake at the top of the

completes safe style

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

ANDREW FRESHWATER may have erred on the side of caution, expecting softer snow and consequently a bumpler course, to finish lith in the international downhill in the first event of the British Land national championships in Tignes, France, yesterday, but his performance was enough to secure his consecutive British downhill title.

With further snow over-night having died away to leave a crystal clear day of Alpine sunshine and no wind, overhead conditions were near-perfect. Freshwater, 25. skied a safe line, expecting similar conditions to the two previous days of train-ing, and he admitted later that he could have attacked

inone.

'I really expected it to be a bit softer and could have afforded to give it a bit more, but unjettheless. I'm happy, he said. The British title is always important, although I'm also tooking at the overall title and that needs four good results. results — and this is one."
Preshwater expects to do better in the international junior

downhill today.

Marco Sullivan, 18, an American development squad member, won the event. The youngster from Squaw Valley is ranked among the top three juniors in the United States and gave it his all to win by just 0.001sec from Ivica Kostel

Tessa Piric, 20, from Aberen, won the women's downhill to secure her third British women's title in four years. Pirie, showing the kind of form that has seen her vaulting up the world rankings since she returned to the British Land alpine team in the summer, after a two-year absence to study medicine. attacked confidently, finding her edges on the recent snow. to beat Anne Pipet, of France, by 0.64sec.

Chemine Alcott, 16, the British junior champion, took second place to set up a fascioverall title, with the slalom and giant slalom, her favourite events, still to come.

• HEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This absurdity of modern bidding is from the 1998 Premier League. North-South were Peter Crouch and Steve Lodge, who play Precision Club.

Dealer	MACSE		Game an	IMPS	
	♣842 ™ Q982 ⊙ J876 ♣ K8		◆ Q 1063 ♡ KJ65 ◇ - ♣ A8743 W E S ◆ AJ97 ♡ 1043 ◇ KQ 109 ♣ J10	♠ K5 [™] A7 [∴] A5432 ♣ Q852	
w_		N	Ε	s	
Pass		10(!)		15	
Pas: All P		3 D (I)	Pass	45	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: king of clubs.

One of the difficult areas of Strong Club systems like Precision is handling moderate opening bids with long clubs. You can't open One Club, as that would be conventional, showing any 17+ hand. So, many Precision Club players open One Diamond with either clubs or diamonds as their longest

On North's motley collectinn I can't see much wrong with passing on the first round: you will be well placed to describe your hand with a take-out double if the opponents bid diamonds: if your partner's main suit is diamonds you can keep the bidding low on a misfic and if your partner opens in a major you can show your support and diamond shortage with a splinter bid.

Steve Lodge's response of One Spade was encouraging

but not forcing, and now Crouch made the weird bid of

the diamond duplication Lodge went on to game, and with the favourable lie of the spades managed to make ten

The Times Book of Bridge 2. featuring the best of Robert Sheehan's daily columns is now out. Order your copy from Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Road, London NWI 3AR. tel: 0171 388 2404, price £7.99, post free for Times readers.

bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend

25 Nac! 26 Qe? White resides

By Philip Howard

PINDA

b. A peanut c. The female panda

RICASSD

a. Rice with fowl b. Part of a sword c. Musical direction for repeat Three Diamonds. That apparently showed a raise to Three Spades with diamond shortage. I'm afraid it's all passed me by - I don't think I want to know how they would show a hand with good diamonds. Despite the warning about

Robert Sheehan writes on section on Saturday.

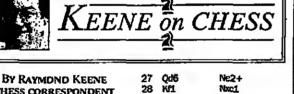
WORD-WATCHING

OCOTILLO

a. A Mexican dance b. A spiny shrub c. A Roman Catholic vestment

REVERDIE a. A visual echo

b. A spring song c. A second flowering Answers on page 42



Kf1

30 Nub7

31 Nxc1

32 Nd3 33 Ke2 34 Qe6 35 Qa2 36 Kd2

Qa3 Nf4

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Junior results

British juniors have recently scored some exceptional results, including the respective youth world championship ti-tles achieved by Nicholas Pert and Ruth Sheldon towards the end of last year, 11-year-old Jessie Gilbert's in the world amateur championship for women at Hastings, and now a new age record by 10-year-old Mu-rugan Thiruchelvam. He has

ever to qualify for a place in a national championship. Today I give two games from his qualifying tournament in York where he finished clear second and thus secured his place in the champi-

become the youngest player

onship. White: Watton

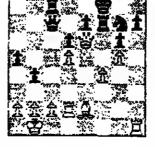
Black: Thiruchelvam Fulprint York Open 1999

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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Gallagher Habibi, Mendrisio, 1998. How did White make a decisive breakthrough into the

black position?



First division secures backing FORD motor dealers in the north of England are to spon-

sor the first division, which begins next month, in the first agreement of its kind outside the Super League.
The lower divisions, which have been amalgamated into an 18-team competition for the 1999 season, struggled by with-

the two-year deal struck by Super League clubs with JJB Sports.

Not only is this a substan-oal sponsorship, it indicates the commercial potential that exists for the game outside Su-

BOWLS

HOPTON-CN-SEA. Nortolic World In-door championships: Singles: Prelimi-

out a backer last season after

per League." a Rugby Football

League (RFL) spokesman said. The competition will almost certainly be known as the Ford First Division. The agreement comes at a time of greater financial stabili-ty for first division clubs after

their £10.8 million release payment from the original Super League deal, which has freed them to negotiate their own television contracts.

ICE HOCKEY

The RFL is to meet Super League Europe (SLE) officials to discuss SLE proposals to de-

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

RUGBY LEAGUE: MOTOR DEALERS STEP IN TO FUEL SECOND TIER OF GAME

duct points at the start of the following season, rather than withholding television income, from those clubs that exceed the players' salary cap of 51 per cent of gross income. Wigan Warriors fell foul of the cap, which was introduced last year, and missed out on valua-ble income.

If the SLE plan is accepted, the spending limit will remain at 51 per cent, but with a mini-mum threshold of, £1 million and a penalty system for of-lenders. Clubs who spend up

SAILING

to 55 per cent of income on salaries will suffer a two-point penalty deduction the next season; those exceeding the limit up to 60 per cent will lose two points and half of any prize-money.

those spending more than 60

per cent would be docked four points and forfeit all prizemoney.

Wigan are seeking damages in excess of £30,000 from Wendell Sailor after the Brisbane Broncos and Australia wing failed to contest a High Court action for reneging on a twoyear agreement to play for Wigan from this year.

FOR THE RECORD

PTON-CRE-SEA, Norfolic World In- rechampionables: Singless Predicti- y resume W Jankson (Erry) bt J Mil- 1) 5-7, 3-7, 7-4, 7-2, 7-3, J Generosade ery bt N Cofell Wales 4-7, 7-6, 7-2, Pred regard: 5 Serre (Scot) bt P In-	NATIONAL LEAGUE MP4.; Mortreal 3 St Louis 1; Washrutor 4 New York Islanders 3. New Jersey 2 Ottawa 4: Prisodelphia B Nazirale 0 Progress 1 Buffalo 0, San Jose 4 Los Angaes 0		
ille (Guert 7-6-7-1, 7-1, A.Marshaff (Eng) Mellors (Soct) 2-7, 7-2, 7-5-1-7, 7-3	MOTOR RALLYING		
CRICKET	DAKAR RALLY: 11th stage (Timbuktu to Nems, 548km). Cars: 1 Y. Shinozaka (Ja-		
R MATCH: Boland Phis day of throot Chidans 220 and 307 (C.L. Hooper 70, P olace 57, B.C. Lare 53, C.M. WPOUghby B. Boland 135 and 123-5. Match drawn.	pon Mitsubsh) 6th 5mn 31sec 2: J.M. Serva (Sp. Schlesser) at Iron 6sec, 3. J.L. Schlesser (Fr. Schlesser) B07, a. J. (Jein- schmatz (Ger. Mitsubsh) B.14. 5. M. Preto (St. Mitsubsh) B.32. Landing overall poet- igs. Mitsubsh) B.32. Landing overall poet-		
	Money & Schloscor Wire (Brown 11cor- 2 Pri.		

TOU Wast A Wa 5-607 FOOTBALL FA CUP: Third-round replays: Post-coned: Barryley v Swindon Notes County v poned: Barryley v amounts
Shelland Utd.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division:
Second division: Y Cycle. Language v

OR RALLYING . DARKAR RALLY: 11th stage (Timbuktu to Nema, 548km) Canc. 1 K Shrinozular (Jepon Mitsubshi) 6th Smit 31sc. 2, JM Serva (Sp. Schlesser) at Imm 6sc. 3, J4. Schlesser (Fr. Schlesser) 8th 7, a J. Kleinschmaß (Gr. Mitsubshi) 814 6. M Pretto (Sp. Mitsubshi) 833 Lending everall poet-lioner. 1 Schlesser 48th 18mm 11sec. 2 Pheno at 8mm 57sec. 3, Kleinschmaß 45.24 Mitsubshilaser. 1, A Co. (Sh. KTM) 8 04 56.2, Kleinschlinser. 1, A Co. (Sh. KTM) 8 05.5, R Sanct (Fr. KTM) 5.59.5, R Sanct (Fr. KTM) 5.59.5, R Sanct (Fr. KTM) 15 2. Aspectioner. 1 Sanct (Sh. KTM) 2. Mitsubshilaser. 3 Mitsubshilaser. 3 Jenni 16.3 British plending: 8, J Decreto (KTM) 159-37

SARLING

MELBOUTPNE: World championships infor sach day freathent of the VC Cup (post nature) 1. Great Britain 30th; 2. Australia 23, 3. Sweden 27. Lauser Gold fleet (state 10 faceb. Not decembed; 18. Aniale (GB) 20cts; 2. R Schneid (GR) 34, 3. K Suntason (Swe) 37. Europe (after nour races), 1. S Robertson (GB) 10cts; 2. M Matthiase (Hol) 14; 3. S Multisk (Frit 15. From Gold Cup (after five races); 1. M Rustrierwaz (Pol) 25pts; 2. K Kuent (Cor) 31; 3. I Percy (GB) 33 deep (after nour caces); 1. M Rustrierwaz (Pol) 25pts; 2. K Kuent (Cor) 31; 3. I Percy (GB) 33 deep (after nour caces); 1. C Nicholson and E Smyth (Aust 150s; 2. F and G Burn R) 4, 3. L and C L McKen (LS) 14. British placings; 6. T Robertson and I Vialue; 21. Soling father lover races); 1. C Nicholson (Rus) 37. British placings; 6. A Beadaworth, R Sydeninam and B Parken 51. 470 mean: Gold Seet (after fiver races); 1. C Towns; and M Mitty (Slovenal 15pts); 2. J Molund and M Rathin (Swe) 22, 3. Send J Comus; 1900 26 British placings; 21. M Robers and J Glambet 61. Silver Seet (after fiver races); 1. C Towns; and M Mitty (Slovenal 15pts); 2. J Molund and M Rathin (Swe) 22, 3. Send J Comus; (Pol) 26 British placing; 21. N Robers and J Glambet 61. Silver Seet (after fiver races); 1. T Towns; 1. J Fortister and B

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7 30 unless stated: FA CUP Futham v Southampton (7.45). Leads v Rushden and Deamonds (7.45) . Swanses v West Ham (7.45) Scottish League First division

FOOTBALL

Airding v Graenock Micrico. Second division Partick v Alice (7.45) Terment's Scottleb Cup Succord round Queen's Park y Clackman stocks Second-round replay

Stating v Montrood

ويكذامن الإيمل

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern divi-sion: Brachle, Town v Gadlock League Cap: Second round: Borron v Gardock Rotory Cute Warned: v Sairo Confeed Town Third round: Newport AFC v Borro-UNIBORO LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second-round replay: B-prop Auckard V Farsky Cello. Parsay Leec. HYMAN LEAGUE: Piest division: Droydon - Carvey Hand Vendenel Trophy: Third round: Harlow - Edgare COURAGE CONSINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: February v V-long Spors: Sanchust v Bediont JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ipseich v Fe-lustowe Port and Town. UNIVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hakshari v Eastbourne In UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE:
Brist division: Hashiam v Eastbourne To
MITERIAN EXPRESS 1880LAND BAVITATION CUP: Third round: Feckenham v
Cadley Idwa
MORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE:
First divisions Lerk CSCS v Chazge
League Cap: Second round: Adventon CxiJenus v S. Heigns Town.

RUGBY UNION Welsh Chellenge Trophy Pool A Comphily v Edinburgo Revers (7 15)...... Bridgend v Glasgow Caledonians (7.15) THE TIMES STUDENT TROPHY: Semi-finals: Brune v Granoble (at Richmand Ad-letic Ground 7.30), University College Cork v Herper Adams (at UCC, 7.0).

SCHWEPPER SESEX SENION LEAGUE: E'TH MARYEY GREET WESTERN COMPUTE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER didalois. EFG Chellen-ham v Shorwood. APROTT BESURDANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Buddingon Texasts v South Shelds SCREWICK DESECT LEAGUE: Premier Sheric SCREWIN DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Brigan; v Ermon CALOR COUNTY ANTHIN SHEELD: Semi-Sept County a Dather, UK Schools

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budwelser Langue: New-casile Emiles v Millon Romes Lons (7.0). Nel-bell Prophy: Group A: Theres Valley Tigns v Leocatic Pades (8.0) ACE MOCKOT: Selsanda Superinggue: Ay Southar Eagler v Shelhold Steelers (7.20): London Knight v Manchésiar Storm (7.0) Memok (LIS) Spite: 2, K and K Nakamura (Lispen) 12; 3, E Hernazaka and Y Miyar (Lispen) 19. Britisch placing: 5, O Edwards and A May 32, 470 women: Gold Thest glate three maces; 1, S Kedtry and A Fabricant (1991) 13pts; 2, N Britiner and Webselle (Ger) 14, 3% Sand M Ward (Den) 14, Britisch placing: 18, K Nuston and B Watson 59 Silver fleet (diler three races); 1, C Simores and S Usandsage (Arg) Spite; 2, L Startforth and A Mathews (Can) 12, 3, B Hooper and C Brisebos (Aus) 19, Britisch placing: 4, H Lucas and M Beach, 21, Sector 21.
CLIPPER ROUND-THIS-WORLD RACE: Leg 8d (Galapiagos to Hawai; with miles to go) 1. Anel (A Thomson) 1.489; 2. Senze (R Dearn) 1.543, 3. Chrysolite (T Hedges) 1.557; 4. Mermerus (B Sollers) 1.575, 6. Taepring (N Felming) 1.623; 6. Thermopylae (M Tod) 1.701, 7. Antiopie (K Harris) 1.748.

SKIING TIGNES, France: British land ontional championships: Downhill: Man: 1, A Fritshweler, (Loch instributish Land Alpine Sto Team) Imm 17.28sec: 2, J Mouder-Brown (London/ELAST) 1:18.21: 3, R Gosen (Fallein/ELAST) 1:18.21: 3, R Gosen (Fallein/ELAST) 1:29.3: 3, O Bosher (Teckinglon/ELAST) 1:22.91: International downhill: Men: 1, M Sumen (LIS) 1:16.77; 2, I Kostelic (Cru) 1:16.78; 3 S Macentrey (LIS) 1:18.77: British placing: 6, Freshwater 1:17.28 Women: 1, Pric 1:20.50; 2, A Poet (Fr) 1:21.14; 3, A Lamour (Fr) 1:22.12

TENNIS

TENNIS

TENNIS

SYDNEY BITERINATIONAL TOURNAMENT: Marx First round: L Howait (Aus) to
PRofer (Aus) 7-6, 6-1; T Muster (Aus) to
J Bipdistran (Swo) 7-6, 6-7, 6-3; J Stehenberg
(Aus) to A Berassical (Sp) 6-1, 6-7, 7-8; C
May's (Sp) to T Johansson (Swo) 6-3, 7-8, N
Keler (Ser) to M Demm (C-) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; T
Woodbridge (Aus) bi M Teithus (Aus) 1-5,
6-1, 7-6; G Kussten (Br) to G Flussedsia (GB)
1-6, 6-3, 6-4, C Profine (Fr) to S Draper (Aus)
6-4, 7-6; I Martin (US) bi H Arazi (Mor) 6-1,
6-3, M Puerta (Arg) to J Stemerink (Hol) 6-2,
6-4; K Kucera (Stovelan) bt F Chreat (Sp) 6-4,
7-6. Wrombur First round: A Huber (Ser) bt
T Persona (Russ) 6-2, 6-2; S Grai (Gar) bt
A Suchwara (Jepan) 6-0, 6-4; A Normicova
(Fluss) to S Fainte (I) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. Second
round: B Schott (Austria) bt C Martinez (Sp)
6-3, 7-8, M Hingle (Switz) bt A Mosic (Aus)

AUGUSTALAND OPEN: Flust round: F Melico-

.6-1, 6-2.

ALCALAND OPEN: First returnet: F Meling-re (Gr) by A Hural (M2) 6-1, 7-6; F Manustic (Sp), by L. Treismen (dr) 7-6, 6-2; F Vicente (Sr) by J Tarango (US) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; O Vaccei; Czy by G. Caruss (Arg) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, M Zubusto; (Arg) by O Serguistatic (B) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, A Pav-el (Born) by M. Picce (Chair) 7-5, 2-2, mt O H-bally (Storatios) by F Squitter (Arg) 6-2, 6-4; A Voirnes (Rom) by J. Chair (Sr), 7-6, 6-1

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RFU pa for mis

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Corruption must not claim Olympic ideal again

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calend his hard that the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City were procured with the aid of bribes, it becomes obvious that none of the Olympic rings

Maier dige fresh

deep to

advantage

If there were such a halo, it would hardly adorn the head of the organisation. Juan Antonio Samaranch. 78. the president of the International Olympic Committee HOC), reiterated yesterday that, whatever the scale of corruption confirmed by ongoing investigations, the Games will go on in Salt Lake City in February, 2002, Logis-

tically, we can understand why.

However, the morality of the IOC is scarred by reports that as many as 25 of its 114 members are implicated in allegations thatn they accepted cash payments, scholarships for their relatives, a land dealexceeding \$70,000 (around £40,000), medical operations and sexual favours paid for by Sait Lake City Bid credit card. In Utah, a Mormon state that

has been shocked by its "Saligate", the remaining \$250,000 needed to wards the operating budget for the Games of \$1.45 billion will be hard to find. In Lausanne, the home of the Olympic movement, two leading sponsors, Coca-Cola and Delta Airlines, have registered concern al-

In Sydney, the site of the summer Games of 2000, Andrew Thomson, a former sports minister of Australia, has sug-gested that the time will come, after the 2004 Ol-ympics in Athens, to put out the Olympic flame

for good. Heaven forbid. This happened once before, when the Games in antiquity were abandoned because of corruption, yet, though they are contami today by unmanageable growth, by commercialism and nationalism, we should defend the Olympic ideal to our last breath.

concept that is warped, but the

: some cheats who run in them. Because, despite the evidence that some have taken medals illegally and others would like to emulate that, there remains no more stiryouth of hundreds of nations striving to prove themselves in the are-na of sport. Better that,

for sure, than war. That was the call The IOC the taking part - that Baron de Coubertin has no made when he revived the Games in 1896, And time if corruption could be beaten once, it can be to spare?

beaten again.
The IOC has no time two weeks from now, it hosts the most concerted attempt yet made to rid all sports, Olympic or other-wise, of the curse of drugs. Sama-ranch and his brethren have placed themselves in an invidious situation. They formed a court of arbitration, also in Lausanne, where sporting law can be adjudicated outside

ROB HUGHES



believes the Olympics are worth fighting for

the expense of international lawyers, yet now the godfathers of the Olympic order must clear themselves of contamination. It is good and bad that the clock races against them. Investigations

made in haste are inevitably

flawed, yet these privileged men and women must come to conclusions and weed out of their system those who blatantly sold votes for favours before they attempt to lead the world out of the

Sacrificial resignations may come, for separate investigations in Salt Lake City clearly name names of IOC members, notably from Africa, who have taken the biggest bribes. But there is an old Sigilian saying: una mano lava - one hand washes the other — that

suspicion ⁵ the IOC must avoid. The uncomfortable question to be addressed right at the top of the agenda is what kind of a leader accepts expen-sive gifts himself and also attempts 10 exempt himself from the rule?

Samaranch no longer denies that he accepted two rifles, worth at least seven times the \$150 limit that his executive committee laid down for the members. These Browning firearms from Utah were acceptable. Samaranch contends, because, as president, he does not vote on the Olympic cities.

Nonsense. No one has more influence than the president and few presidents have used it more than Samaranch. Nor was it pleasant to see Samaranch, day afier day at the Nagano

Leaders

must be

above

Winter Games, sporting a gold-braided collar advertising Mizuno, a Japanese sportswear

manufacturer. By example, the IOC president, the highest sporting office on earth. must be seen. like Caesar's wife, to be above suspicion. We hear that

restrict the vote to the 11-member executive, but, surely, it would be politic also to make it an open ballot, transparent and accountable to

The succession, when finally Samaranch gives way, is expected to go to Richard Pound, the Montreal soned chalice of leading the IOC's internal investigation into wrong-doing over Salt Lake City. He finds

don't like this [corruption] to be out there, but I'm glad it is because it gives us the opportunity to look into it and, hopefully, that opportunity will put a chapter that appears to be somewhat disagreeable behind

It is more than an opportunity; it is an obligation. The Olympic Games are the property of mankind and the onus on the IOC is to squeeze out corruption - and to do before the end of the month.

The ideal is worthless without trust and the leaders are not competent to tackle the contamination of drugs unless they are themselves above suspicion.

Rather than any compassion, they must remember that they all had the same opportunity to do what the Princess Royal did a decade ago - return all unsolicited gifts, all bribes, without thanks.

RUGBY UNION

RFU pays penalty for misconduct over clubs' revolt

By David Hands, Rugby correspondent

month, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) has been found guilty of breaches of International Rugby Board (IRB) regulations. Last month, it was fined for its failure to take stronger action against Eng-: bsh clubs playing unauthorised matches with Cardiff and Swansea; this month, its recent conduct has been found prejudicial to the game's best interests and a further penalty will be determined later this.

It is hard to determine who is harming rugby the most these days. The crazy world of professionalism has set every man's hand against his neigh bour, to the extent that the IRB can now accuse the RFU of being "factually inaccurate" in its presentation of evidence

FOR the second successive nary hearing in Dublin nearly a month ago. The board has rebutted, sen-

tence by sentence, the assertion of the RFU that charges against it were invalid on procedural grounds and that there was no material case to answer. The issue between them is the action taken by leading English clubs in complaining last April to the European Commission about restrictive IRB practices, which prevented them from negotiating their own commercial agreements for competitions in which they.

were involved. At that time, the IRB says, the RFU pledged "absolute and unqualified support forthe board in its response to the clubs actions. The IRB disciplibeing "factually inaccurate" in nary committee, which was its presentation of evidence chaired by Tim Gresson, New leading up to the IRB discipli-

Easterby promoted to Ireland squad

GUY EASTERBY, the Lon- with the Ireland Under-21 side don Scottish scrum half, who through his Dublin-born mother, has been included in a 26-man training squad in Galway next week (Karl Johnston writes). Two members of the Irish Rugby Football Union Academy — Gordon D'Arcy, of Lansdowne, and Brian O'Driscoll, of UCD, both backs — have also been invited to attend.

Easterby, 27, whose brother Simon, a flanker, excelled

ster in their victory over Stade

Français is likely to be replicat-

two seasons ago, was three-times an Ireland A replace-

ment last season. Four players who were included in the previous nat-ional squad — Darragh O'Ma-hony, Pat Duignan, Mick Galway and Alan Quiolan have failed to make the party. SQUAD: Bactois C O' Shea, G. Germpooy, J. Bishop, J. McMeeney, J. Bell, K. Maggs, R. Hendarson, E. Elwood, O. Humphreys, C. McCurroses, C. Scally, G. Easterby, Forwards: P. Cohestey, J. Fizipatrick, R. Conigen, P. Wallace, K. Wood, R. Nessdale, P. Johns, M.O'Kolly, J. Davidson, O. G'Cunnoegan, E. Miller, V. Cossello, T. Brennan, A. Ward.

found subsequent support to be less than lukewarm and was affronted that the RFU had not informed it of any change in stance. That the RFU was in admin-

Miliar, of Ireland, Rian Ober-holzer, of South Africa, and

Shiggy Konno, of Japan,

istrative chaos for much of last year has been accepted, to a degree, by the board; by late. autumn, however, with a new administration in place, it found the RFU prepared to play hardball and, clearly, it does not like it. The upshot is that the RFU has been found to have breached the board's Bylaw No 7 and Gresson's disciplinary committee is now in the process of considering an appropriate penalty, which could range from another fine and imposition of costs to the dramatic, and unlikely, ultimate of expulsion.

IRB's legal advisers to address the potential sanction, to serve the decision on the RFU by tomorrow and any response from England to be forthcom-ing by January 21. Since the RFU has a management board meeting tomorrow, it should have some idea of its fate: Francis Baron, the union's chief executive, met Stephen Baines, his opposite number from the IRB, yesterday morning.
The union's response will be

known after the meeting tomorrow, but, to judge by Baron's robust reaction to the board's hold £60,000 from IRB Trust funds, it will not take this latest development lying down.



Ainslie spies Laser title on horizon

Students on battle stations FTER the dramatic events of. but were back at full strength for their 23-13 defeat in Cork. BY MICHAEL AYLWIN weekend in the European Our come the semi-finals of With University College, Dub-Harper Adams have been lin (UCD) having disposed of Toulouse, the champions last the student version. The Times the surprise package of the Trophy, tonight.
The passion displayed by Ulin Melbourne. season, in the qualifying rounds, UCC are unlikely to

shirk the task of keeping the Irish flag flying in the tournald in Cork, as University College, Cork (UCC) entertain They earned their place in Harper Adams, the agriculturthe semi-final by beating Northumbria It was wrongly al college from Shropshire. while Brunel and Grenoble, the French student champions reported in this column last last season, should be inweek that Northumbria had volved in a similarly epic clash at the Richmond Athletic been stripped of several of their players in the qualifying stages by Newcastle Palcons. Irish student rugby is partic-They lost them, in fact, to anlarly strong at the moment. other, unnamed, local side,

tournament. Based on a powerful pack, their passage to the semi-finals has been at the expense of Rome, Durham and Trinity, Carmarthen.

Brunel have claimed notable scalps in Swansea, who were finalists last year, and UCD. Drawing from the ranks of Saracens. Richmond and London Scottish, and coached by Paul Volley, the Wasps flanker, they will pose a serious threat to Grenoble, who secured their semi-final spot by beating Loughborough.

ly on course for his first Laser class title at the expense of Robert Scheidt, of Brazil, and 138 other sailors, after a solid performance vesterday in a difficult, shifting breeze at the world sailing championships

With just two more races to come today, Ainslie, 22, from Lymington, Hampshire, has extended his lead over Scheidt from five points on Monday to 14 last night. In the first race yesterday - the ninth of the se-ries - Ainslie kept his head in tricky conditions to post his sixth win of the championship. while Scheidt could finish only

In the second race, Ainslie was eleventh, but both Scheidt and Karl Sunesson, of SweBy Edward Gorman, sailing correspondent

den, who has moved ahead of Michael Blackburn, of Australia, into third place, had their worst races of the regatta, finishing in 28th and 47th place respectively. Ainslie needs to hold it

together today to secure the prize and he sounded confident yesterday. "I'll try to get some good races in and not worry too much about the other sailors," he said. "They've all got worse discards than me, so I'll be looking to sail to win - I hope to, anyway." In the Europe class, Shirley Robertson maintained her overall lead, adding two fourth places yesterday to her

two wins on Monday. Her

chances of an overall victory

are looking good, with Caroliin Brouwer, of Holland, the ti-tle-holder, placed in the low twenties at present after being over the line early in the first race yesterday.

Iain Percy is now third overall in the Finn Gold Cup after winning the sixth race of the series, while Andy Beadsworth has moved up ten places to sixth in the Soling class after winning the fourth race of the

"A break at the start gave us a chance," Beadsworth said. "We had good pace and got into the shifts quickly and had established a good lead ten minutes into the race. " Lawrie Smith is now elev-

enth, but the leader remains

Stig Westergaard, of Denmark, with Jochen Schue-mann, of Germany, the triple Olympic gold medal-winner. in second place. Tim Robinson and lan

Walker are now the top British pairing, in sixth place overall, in the 49ers after accumulating seven top-five finishes. They are now just eight points behind the leaders. Chris Nicholson and Ed Smyth, of Australia. Ian Barker and Daniel Phillips are twelfth while Andy and lan Budgen have slipped to thirteenth

Sir Chay Blyth has announced that two of the identitake part in the next BT Global Challenge, starting in Sep-tember 2000, are to be built in China at the Kimis Yacht Company in Zuhahi. The decision is part of a strategy by the Challenge Business to attract sponsors from China and

Hong Kong. The BT Global Challenge. which is Sir Chay's third westabout circumnavigation for paying amateurs, is expected to involve up to 15 yachts. The plan to build two boats in China is made possible by the provision for flat-pack assembly of the new Rob Humphries-designed yachts. Originally, Sir Chay had

envisaged boats being built in several foreign countries. However, it now appears all the others will be built in Plymouth.

GEOFF COOKE, the former England manager, has denied reports linking him with the job of chief executive at Bath. "At this stage, it is pure speculation. I have not had any contact with anyone from Bath. If anyone wants to talk to me. I would consider anything because I need a job." Cooke, now back living in Leeds, said

yesterday. Cooke, who hopes that the assets of Frank Warren, the Bedford owner, will soon be unfrozen, has been out of work since resigning from Goldington Road, Bedford still owe him substantial sums after their promotion: from the second division of the Ailied Dunbar Premiership last year. Reports suggested that he had been invited to meet Andrew Brownsword, the backer of Bath, recently. It is no secret that Bath are

Bath consider taking plunge with Cooke looking for a chief executivewho has rugby as well as business acumen and Cooke

would have appeared to fit the bill. Bob Calleja, the club's general manager, said: I cannot comment on individual names. The position is still open and I doubt it would be filled for at least three months." Crossed wires

It appears that the "talking flags" experiment between linesmen and referees might need some fine tuning - if Smart Piercy's experience is anything to go by. The referee was in charge of the Northampton v London Irish Premiership game last Tuesday when he heard an

unfamiliar voice in his

earpiece yelling: "Come in. Gate 4." It kept happening and, after the match, Piercy discovered that he had been picking up the head of security at Franklin's Gardens issuing instructions on his walkie-talkie. David Grashoff, of the

East Midlands Society, had an even worse time of it last season, when refereeing Blackheath v Saracens in the Tetley's Bitter Cup. He kept hearing a local taxi company controller in his car - and wasn't sure whether "Pick up No 10" referred to him or a driver

Absent friend With the new year into its



once more to the Five Nations Championship, which begins on February 6. England sit out the first round, waiting a fortnight for the Calcutta Cup meeting with Scotland at Twickenham, For Bill

bittersweet occasion. Because the match is on Sky Sports, it will be the first England v Scotland international at Twickenham that McLaren, now 75, will have missed since embarking on his great commentating career in 1955. Instead, he will be at Wembley for Wales against Ireland. "It will be very sad not to be there." McLaren said. "I have always loved Twickenham. It was the first

international ground I ever went to after Murrayfield. At least I'll be in London on the day and will be able to hear the roar when Scotland

☐ Ulster's tremendous victory over Stade Français

at Ravenhill was all too much for Willie Anderson. the former Ireland forward and London Irish coach. Anderson was acting as a summariser for radio, but. when the final whistle went, he was too choked with emotion to speak. Who said big men don't cry?

Bristol fashion

Calling all Bristol fans . . . two local enthusiasts, Mark Hoskins and Dave Fox, are compiling an official photographic history of the club and would welcome any help with the project from supporters with interesting memorabilia. Hoskins said: "We would love to look at any Bristol items and possibly borrow one or two

for reproduction. We guarantee we'll treat them with great care and return them as soon as possible." Hoskins can be contacted during the evenings on 0117 942 6414, Fox on 01454 884077. You had better hurry, Bristol may not exist in its present form for long!

Welsh for hire

The staff of Just Rentals, a firm that supplies televisions in South Wales, now includes no fewer than four stars of the small screen in Neil Jenkins, Martyn Williams, Dafydd James and Dale McIntosh. The Pontypridd international quartet can be seen on television one day and on doorsteps the next with a set

under their arms. Bernard Jones, the Just Rentals chairman, said: "They're all nice lads and everyone at the company is very proud of them." Jenkins, reputed to be on a salary of £100,000 with the company, is now tipped to become rugby's first millionaire.

Taking care August 31 is the cut-off point for manufacturers of protective rugby clothing and headgear who may be hoping to secure the International Rugby Board's (IRB) seal of approval. After that date, nothing that has not been tested, passed and officially stamped will be permissible during games. The IRB says that it is taking action because individual unions have been unable to police their own players.

MARK SOUSTER

Jordan calls time on brilliant career

The great ships hung motionless in the sky. over every nation on earth. Motionless earth. they hung, huge, heavy, steady in the sky, a blasphemy against nature. Many people went straight into shock as their minds tried to encom-pass what they were looking at. The ships hung in the sky in much the same way that

These words, describing the arrival of the Vogon starships in The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy, will do very well to describe Michael Jordan in his pomp. He hung in the air in much the same way that people don't.

There is a basketball term that was more or less invented for Jordan: hang-time. It was described with sober seriousness, basketball being a serious pursuit: you have to tripleteam Jordan when playing de-fense against him, because of

his great hang-time. The term refers to the length of time that Jordan is able to remain suspended at the apex of his jump. So try it. Try to measure the hang-time of yourself, or a brick. It doesn't work. does it? There is no such thing as hang-time. You go up, you come down.

Slow dissolve to Chicago, in June 1993. Final seconds of a National Basket Association finals game between Chicago Bulls, otherwise known as Team Jordan, and the Phoenix Suns. A steal: give it to Michael. The polished, sweatanointed dome of the brown head, the arachnoid limbs, the charge into the heart of the defence; the fake, the other fake, the soaring leap.

Sir Charles Barkley, his chief opponent, gave him a shove as he took off. The blow, sweetly-timed, twisted Jordan round through 180 degrees in the air. He was out of control. giddy, off balance, uncertain of his exact location.

Well, he should have been, but, soaring backwards, he reached up to plop the ball nonchalantly into the basket before landing in a sprawl of limbs. Up he got, to take the free throw for Barkley's foul: the ball his nothing but net.

Grace, skill and the most colossal will to win. In short, the complete package. Now Jor-dan has retired and the question must be asked: will we ever see his like again? The chances are pretty remote.

How many Bradmans have we had in cricket? How many Pelés have we had in football? How many Muhammad Alis have we had in life? We must put Jordan in that category. In this country, we don't really understand basketball, we only really know about the Jordan as a cultural and fiscal phenomenon. His impact on the United States economy has been estimated at \$10 billion. He is an icon for the United

CLUB

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Canada

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Hang-time: Jordan makes one of his trademark leaps, above, and, right, practises his batting during an unsuccessful switch to baseball

States, living proof that Every-thing in America is Ali Right. How can there be anything wrong with a society that produces Michael "Air" Jordan?

Car registration M AIR J. A nickname invented not by his clamorous public but by the company whose plimsoils he wears. Perhaps the most recognisable face on the planet but in this country we know

nothing about the player.

And in sport, truth is only found when the ball is live. Back to Chicago in 1993. Jordan was 30 then. The sainted image had been tainted with stories of his taste for highstakes golf. Chicago had just lost game three to Sir Charles's boys. Jordan was

criticised for trying too hard. He was tired. He was taking too much on. He had lost his edge. It was all over. Column-

SNOW REPORTS

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ists sharpened up their obitu-

Come game four, with the wrong-way basket and so on. Jordan scored 55 points out of III. Phil Westphal, the oppos-ing coach, said that he wasn't surprised. "I'm anazed, but I'm not surprised." He added significantly: "He inflicted his will on us."

Jordan transformed American basketball from a game struggling to rise from its recent sleazy past into the hottest property in American sport and, therefore, in world sport. The introduction of professional basketball at the Olympic Games - the Dream Team was an aspect of the Jordan

Jordan did not rise to prominence with his wit and wisdom. He tended to utter appropriate role-model banalities, but al-

ways with perfect manners, airy charm. No, it was only when the ball was live that you got the measure of the man. George Best's marker was

taken off, according to Best's pal, Paddy Crerand, "suffer-ing from twisted blood". But has there ever in sport been a worse job than marking Jor-dan? Nick Anderson, of Orlando Magic, described his own experience. "You been to hell before? You don't want to go."

ordan even managed to pull off every superstar's impossible goal: coming back. Jordan took 18 months off to try to be a baseball player, having gone as far as he could, he said, in basketball. After all, he had led Chicago to three successive NRA titles, the third in that June of

found baseball failure oddly merapeunc. In March 1995, ne rejoined Chicago Bulls. And once again, Team Jordan won the NBA championship three times in a row. Then came the dispute between team owners and players and Jordan, not wishing to let down the boys, waited until the deal was struck before announcing his retirement a graceful exit.

A decent chap — but the hell with decent chaps. In sport, it is action that fires the imagination. Hang-time is an illusion based on extraordinary athleticism. Let us relish the realities. Trade-mark move: the no-look pass. In basketball, more than most ball games, you read intentions by reading eyes. Jor-dan could and often did pass while looking in the opposite direction. Another trade-mark move: fake right, go right.

Vignette: Chicago against Uan Jazz, Non Finals 1991. Last second of the game, Jordan with the ball. The defense triple-teamed him, to stop the inevitable Jordan charge. Instead, the utterly unexpected hip to Steve Kerr, who socied and settled the champion-

Vignette two NBA final 1998, same championship, same situation. Same result, different route. Jordan crashed through the lot to score. It was his last touch in professional basketball.

An American asked if I enjoyed my time in Chicago. Sure I did, it's always great to see sport played at that level. You mean that level above the ground? Yes. Jordan could leap far above the earth. And stay there. Hang-time; it's

with the electric starter on his

his huge 660cc machine hav-

ing broken, he had to contend with kick-starting it. Desper-ately weakened, he had to pull

As both riders, none the

worse for the rigours of their

epic adventure, rested along-

side Captain Dave Mackay.

their commanding officer, and

Sergeant John Bangs, their me-chanic, back at their Woolwich

base this week, it was time to reflect. "I don't think we could

have done anything differently," Mackay said. "We are dis-

appointed, but we are proud of

what we achieved. It was an ex-

perience we will remember for

luck, will John Deacon, Brit-

ain's most experienced Dakar

hand. In his fifth rally, Deacon

was in eighth place overall af-

ter the eleventh stage yesterday

from Timbuktu to Nema. The

rally ends on Sunday and those

who make it to Dakar will have

the satisfaction of knowing that

they have taken on the forces of

So, too, with a modicum of

the rest of our lives."

out at the next check point.

HOW MICHAEL JORDAN HIT THE HEIGHTS With 28,227 points Jordan is the third highest scorer in NBA history behind Kareem Abdul-labbar and Wift Chamberlain and holds the record for leading the league in scoring in ten seasons. He was voted the NBA's most valuable player five times (1988, 1991 He won the NBA championship six times with Chicago Bells (1992, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 1998) and on each occasion be wasvoted He was voted NBA rookle of the year in 1984-85. ned a record 63 points in a play

MOTOR RACING

Walkinshaw keeps charge of Arrows

TOM WALKINSHAW has hung on to control of his Arrows Formula One team with backing from a Nigerian prince and a leading City finance house. The team was thought to be a target for sale, possibly to German bidders.

However. Walkinshaw announced yesterday that he was forming a new consortium with Prince Malik Ado Ibra-him and Morgan Grenfell Private Equity, which will value the Arrows business at £110 million. Walkinshaw retains 25 per cent of the business as well as the chairman-

The deal means that Arrows. with around 200 jobs, will stay in Great Britain, while the parmership brings City money into a business that is traditionally dominated by sponsorship from cigarette

companies. Arrows was one of the few teams without a tobacco sponsor, but it relied heavily on Danka, an electronics business in the United States. Danka ran into financial problems last year, leaving Walkin-

shaw to seek sponsorship.

The relationship also brings an intriguing new personality into Formula One in Prince Malik. The prince, 38, is the third son of a Nigerian tribal king and was educated in Britain. He has become a leading player in Nigerian telecommu-nications, has brokered the deal for Proton, of Malaysia. to buy the Lotus cars business in Britain and was apparently the inspiration behind the Arrows deal.

He said: "This partnership will provide long-term viabil-ity for a team with extraordinary untapped potential."

Britons' desert adventure ends

aches become huge, virtually insurmountable problems. With birds of prey circling overhead, mere survival pecomes a victory in itself. At times such as these, it does not matter that you are a military man, highly trained and superbly fit. In the desert, even men of iron can be reduced to straw. The Dakar Rally takes no prisoners. It was with a keen sense of anticipation and, they thought. unquenchable optimism that Darren Bidwell and Paul Gower left Granada, in Spain, at the start of this year's Dakar Rally. Ahead of them lay 5.600

miles across some of the toughest terrain on earth, but they believed that they could do it. Less than a week later, they were out of the rally, beaten but not broken by the sands. Bidwell, like his team-mate. a bombardier in the Royal Artillery and a member of The Flying Gunners, the regi-

ment's motorcycle display

team, was the first to go - and

his downfall was caused by

The Dakar Rally is an unforgiving taskmaster. Mel Webb reports nothing more crucial than a

He was preparing to embark on the fifth leg of the rally, a 390-mile stage between Bir Mogrein to Atar in Mauritania, and was queueing patiently for fuel when, without warning, the fuel tanker decamped and headed for the rally-supporting helicopters. What had been an organised queue became a disorganised rabble and, in the hullaballon, Bid-

well lost his fuel cap.

He was understandably unwilling to bodge the job and an appeal to porrow a cap from two riders who were already out of the event fell on unsympathetically stony ground. By the time that Bidwell located a spare cap, he was lagging behind the four-wheel-drive vehicles. Faced by the prospect of having his air filter and his lungs filled with dust, he tried to accelerate past them, but succeeded only in taking a tumble from his KTM. It was the beginning of the end.

He was still in the race when night fell, but had 65 miles of dunes to cover. Short of energy and time, he reluctantly had to accept that, for him, the race was probably over. A night in the dunes was the only option and he watched as the sun came up and the buzzards came to call. Bidwell was eventually res-

cued, leaving Gower as the team's standard-bearer, but within 24 hours his pilgrim-age had come to an end as well. During the 285 miles be-tween Atar and Tidjikja, he hit a huge, half-hidden rock, He took a tumble, but just as damaging was the fact that he fractured a fuel line.

The plucky Gower tried to press on, but was becoming more and more dehydrated.

حركذابن ريومل

feuer unexp in the



Rushden goalkeeper arrives at Elland Road via Las Vegas

Feuer relishes his unexpected spell in the limelight

By RICHARD HOBSON

IAN FEUER is one member of the Rushden and Diamonds side who will not be star-struck by the bright lights and packed stands at Elland Roadtonight. After a childhood mingling in the company of A list: celebrities, an evening with Lucas Radebe and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is unlikely to provoke an outbreak of

Jet-skiing with Diana Ross on the Queen of Motown's priwater near Lake Tahoe remains just one memory of his bring five years in the United tates, yet, if the lifestyle of his Vegas youth seems to be a world away from an FA Cup hird-round replay against and United in the cold of forkshire, then Reuer has no regrets about taking the family name into another branch of the entertainment industry: He has quite an act to iollow. Ron. his father, Ron, is

a keyboard player who lined up in backing bands for Ross, Elvis Presley and Paul Anka and now makes records of his own. Rusty, his mother, trod the boards as a showgirl on the biggest stages in Vegas, lping to open evenings for he likes of Frank Sinatra and sammy Davis Jr. She now runs her own agency.

For eight years, Debbie, a

ister, was better known as irs Mickey Rourke, having inned and divorced one of -lollywood's most charismatic anctors, the star of 914 Weeks." allery in Rodeo Drive, Bever-Hills, while his two brothers yang lay in the rock group Fifth Di-

Feuer, Zi, said: "It was a retty nomadic childhood beause, when I was on vacation ake me with him on tours vith people like Diana Ross; o I got to see a lot of America.

idanda i taken biri.

24. m. 12/21. ""

p.4 - 48 200

At that age, I did not realise people like Sinatra were major stars. They were just people

"The problem with being a kid in Las Vegas is that everything is geared towards people over 18. Otherwise, there is not a lot to do. Basically, everybody used to have house parties and I suppose where Dihouse was bigger than usual. I have a photograph at home of me as a kid in a wetsuit with her in the background. I used to like going around because of the terrific barbecues and

the lake. " Despite achieving a reasonable level of competence on the



swing towards football. Showtime came to mean televised coverage of English football in bars. The family moved to California when he was 15 and soon after joining Los Angeles Salsa — a football club, not a dance troupe - he decided to try his luck in Europe.

Five years in Belgium preceded his arrival at West Ham United, but he struggled to break into the first team and moved to Luton Town. He left Kenilworth Road last summer. for New England Revolution. the Major League Soccer side his place when Walter Zenga, the former Italy goalkeeper, arrived as player-coach. Rushden had injuries to both their goalkeepers and

offered a one-month loan

while he sought a bigger club ing to be a great game."

in England. "I did not realise how much I love this country until I went back to the States," he said.

The loan expires at the weekend, just as the Confer ence side are enjoying their own period of fame and Peuer, outstanding in the 0-0 draw against Leeds at Nene Park, is sifting through offers to stay in England. If nothing else, he has inherited his parents

sense of firming.
Even though the Northamp-tonshire club declined to accept its full entitlement of 4,300 tickets, about 3,000 supporters will make the 150-mile journey north tonight, nearly half of them in 30 official coaches. That is still 400 more than the average home attendance and David Joyce, the sec-retary, has heard talk of little else in the villages of Rushden and Irthlingborough.

Brian Talbot, the head coach, is playing down the prospects of his team, despite the fact that Leeds may have to press Radebe into service ahead of schedule after a knee injury because of a shortage of

Jonathon Woodgate is also very doubtful with a thigh strain, leaving David O'Leary. the Leeds manager, with only one recognised central defender, David Wetherall.

"I don't know when our injury jinx is going to let up and leave us alone," O'Leary said, "but we've an exciting cup-tie and we've got to show that we can cope with this crisis that has hit us." Talbot said: "Leeds should

have too much class and ability, but, if we can keep them out, we might get something on the counter," he said. Feuer has a less tactical approach. "Let's just go out there and enjoy it." he said. "It's go-



Talbot is playing down Rushden's chances of staging an FA Cup upset against Leeds

TENNIS

Rusedski goes back to gym after early loss

ANOTHER week, another iournament and another firstround loss - it was not quite the start to the year that Greg Rusedski had in mind. Yesterday at the Sydney International, it was Gustavo Kuerten's turn to put the Great Britain No 2's nose out of joint, surviving a first-set pasting by Rused-ski before winning I-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Kuerten is known as a giantkiller, coming from nowhere to win the French Open, his first tournament title, two years ago. For the next year, he faded from view, but towards the end of last summer he found his touch again to win a further two titles.

Even so, Rusedski could have done without another setback so close to the Australian Open — not that he was letting on. "There's really nothing to be down about," he said. Kuerten just played a great

After his defeat last week to Bernd Karbacher, the world No 124, Rusedski is now somewhat short of match-practice before the start of the first grand-slam tournament of the season — and Rusedski is a man who needs matches under his belt. Playing eight of the final ten weeks of last season, he was getting better and better, a run that led to his first Mercedes Super Nine title, beating Pete Sampras in the final of the Paris indoor event. Give the man a holiday, however, and it takes a long time to get back up to speed.

The loss has sent Rusedski scurrying back to the gym and the practice courts in an attempt to kick-start the competitive juices. Having dominated the first set, he began to wilt as the match wore on and he is determined to be physically sharper before moving on to Melbourne.

"It was one of those matches where I played better than last week but just lost," he said. Rusedski was in good company as Pat Rafter, the US Open champion, also fell at the first hurdle. He, too, improves only through sheer hard graft. Beaten by Lleyton Hewitt, the young pretender to Rafter's po-sition of Australia 's favourite 6-1. "I was definitely underdone," he confessed.

What awaits Petr Korda in Melbourne is anybody's guess. More and more players are expressing anything from concern to outright anger than Korda has not been suspended after he provided a positive drugs test at Wimbledon last year. Rumours continue to fly and a players' boycott of the Open has been mooted. While that is unlikely, they will certainly have their say at a pretournament meeting at the



Rusedski: bad start to year

weekend, Korda, who looked nervous and edgy last week in Qatar, has announced that he will definitely defend his Australian Open title and, still proclaiming his innocence, will say his piece at the players

"I will stand in front of the players, I do not have any problem to stand in front of anybody," he said. "I wanted to play in Australia because I haven't done anything. Why should I hide? I want to show the world I am still capable of playing tennis and I want to defend my title as well as I

Keane hopes to secure a new contract in the near future

United dampen Keane's desire

ROY KEANE, the Manchester United midfield player. could be disappointed in his attempts to secure a swift resofuture at Old Trafford. Keane. whose contract expires at the end of the 1999-2000 season. has expressed his desire to arrange another, long-term deal immediately. Keane is also believed to be demanding a pay rise, taking his wages to around £40,000 a week.

However, Martin Edwards, the United chief executive, confirmed vesterday that the club did not want to alter its usual procedure over new contract negotiations. United open talks with players no more than 12 months before their contract is due for renewal.

By Stephen Wood and Russell Kempson

"Roy still has 18 months to run on his present contract," Edwards said. "I am surprised. that there is speculation already and there are no thoughts at the moment to bringing these talks forward.
The timing is very impor-

tant, because we feel that contract discussions can be disruptive. We want players to concentrate on football and the proper time to sit down with Roy will be the summer." Keane has said that if the situation is not sorted out to his satisfaction, he could leave the dub in the summer of 2000. That would mean that, with Keane a free agent, United would receive nothing if he

was transferred to another club. If United met Keane's financial demands, however, their wage structure would be

prepared to take. The FA Premier League is waiting for United to send it a full report into events on Sunday, when a power failure delayed the kick-off of the FA Carling Premiership match with West Ham United by 45 minutes. Old Trafford staff have begun inquiries into the incident, although they do not anticipate completing delibera-tions before the weekend. They have been told already that the North Stand cannot

broken, a risk that they are not

proved that it is safe for supporters.

Chelsea's determination to hang on to their lead in the FA Carling Premiership stepped up a gear yesterday when it was revealed that they bave made an enquiry for Gilles de Bilde, the Belgium striker, who plays for PSV Eindhoven. Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager, is keen to add to his squad after a series of injuries has left him with a lack of cov-

er, especially up front. Chelsea would prefer the move to be on a loan basis until the end of the season, with an option to buy if it proves successful, but PSV are more interested in a permanent deal and are seeking about £3.5 mil-lion for De Bilde.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Rios pulls out of Auckland event

TENNIS: Marcelo Rios, the men's world No 2, dropped out of the Heineken Open in Auckland yesterday, just 46 minutes into his first-round match. The Chilean, seeded No l, suffered a recurrence of the back injury that troubled him at the end of last year and his preparation for the Australian Open, the first grand-slam tournament of the year, which starts next week, is in jeopardy. Rios won the first set of his match with Andre Pavel, of Romania, 7-5, but his service was broken early in the second game, when he failed to chase a ball on break point. and he withdrew to the dressing-room to receive treatment. Rios has never won a grand-slam title.

K Club the Ryder choice

■ GOLF: The European Ryder Cup committee is expected to confirm this week that the 2005 Cup will be hosted by the K Club in Straffan, Co Kildare. The K Club will not receive official confirmation of the decision until a press conference on Friday, but a source said that other clubs in treland had been told that they would not be chosen for the biennial event between Europe and the United States. Jefferson Smurfit plc,

Smethwick sign Wasim

EXECUTE: Smethwick, of the Birmingham Premier League, who usually attract around 100 spectators for home matches. have signed Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, as their overseas professional. John Lumb, the Smethwick chairman. said: "He will have an enormous impact on the league and the

Africans go for glory

MATHLETICS: Daniel Komen and Haile Gebrselassie will swap distances in a bid to break each other's world indoor records at the BUPA Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham on February 14. Komen, of Kenya, runs in the 2,000 metres and Gebrselassie, of Ethiopia, will attempt to break Komen's

Henman's London date

TENNES: Tim Henman, the world No 7, has joined Greg Rusedski, his British compatriot, in confirming that he will play in the Guardian Direct Cup in Battersea Park next month. Other leading players taking part in the ATP tournament, from February 22 to 28, include Richard Krajicek, a former Wimbledon winner, and Cedric Pioline, of France.

Murdoch is fan of Blatter proposal

EADING officials of Uefs.
European football union,
ected the plan to stee sterday, saying that it would ve "negative consequences" ie plan, put forward by Sepp atter, the president of Fifa,

a receive support. however, ivn a more unlikely source pert Murdoch.

Murdoch arn a more unlikely source pert Murdoch.
Murdoch, the chairman of chief executive of News rooration, the parent commy of The Times; was full of thusiasm for the chairman of the second commy of the second comments of the second com ny of The Times, was full of thusiasm for the suggestion. 'My first reaction to that is a very good idea," Murdo-speaking at a forum on dia in the 21st century, said. . think the World Cup is a eat international event and re's no reason why it.

nuld not be staged every 'If we don't have a World p between countries every years, maybe it would be ht to have, in between the adrennial World Cup. 3 rid Cup of clubs."

Te added: "Certainly, foot-I is so strong and so popuin so many parts of the rid that we should see ior international competin more than every four. ers. .] would agree with

lowever, in a statement, ia "not only objected to the a, but also condemned the y the project was presented. hout prior consultation of of the relevant bodies.

Uefa and Lennart Johans son, its president, has been crit-ical of Blatter's plan since he floated it last weekend. Its six top officials are of the opinion that the project would produce negative consequences in sporting, medical and commer-cial contexts and have a damaging effect on domestic competitions".

Blatter said that staging the

World Cup every two years would boost national teams, which he argued had been threatened by proposals for a breakaway league of top European clubs.

Uefa countered that by saying "there are other ways" of strengthening national teams and soccer associations. Its presidential board "noted with regret signs that the project could be a matter of personal

Fifa's Strategic Studies Committee, which can propose changes to international compentions and which is chaired by Blatter, is likely to discuss the idea this month Fifa has taken a step to-

wards clearing the way to a biennial World Cup by announcing a plan to harmonise the international football calendar. A meeting will be held in Zurich on Friday with a view to reschedule continental fournaments, such as the European championship, the Copa America and the African Nations' Cup, which, at present, are held in different

Goram goes to Fir Park

BY PHIL GORDON

ANDY GORAM, the former Scotland goalkeeper, listened to the voice of reason for once in his turbulent career yesterday and joined Motherwell, the Scottish Premier League club, ontil the end of the season. Goram, 34, had been

offered a short-term contract by Billy Davies, the Fir Park manager, just two months ago, but resisted in order to pursue an adventure with Brian Laudrup: his former Rangers colleague, at FC Copenhagen. The Dan-ish club ultimately passed over the talented but tempestuous Goram. who earned 42 caps for Scotland until his walkout on the eve of the World Cup finals last June and subsequent retirement from interna-

tional football. "I will not be using Motherwell as a stepping stone." Goram insisted yesterday, "There is a verbal agreement for a further two-year contract if things go well and, hope-

fully, they will."
Goram, who spent seven years at Ibrox, spent two months at Sheffield United, of the Nationwide League first division, earlier in the season.

Oldham lose chairman

be reopened until they have

IAN STOTT resigned yester-day as chairman of Oldham Athletic, the Nationwide League second division club, in the wake of his claims that they were considering a merg-er with two other clubs in the North West.

Stott was reported last week to have opened talks with the chairmen of Bury and Roch-dale, with a view to forming one club — possibly called Manchester North End — in the millennium. Terry Robinson, the chairman of Bury, and David Kilpatrick, the chairman of Rochdale, both played down the idea and, after an emergency board meet-ing at Oldham, Stott resigned.

David Brierley, the vice-chairman, replaces him, with Stott remaining on the board as Brierley's deputy. Stott, who took over as chairman in 1982, admitted that he had put Oldham in a difficult position. He said: "I felt I had By Stephen Wood

inadvertently embarrassed the club to such an extent that it would be in everyone's interests if I stepped down."

The story brough an in-stant backlash from Oldham supporters and Brierley was eager to set the record straight on the issue. "I can assure everyone that we have no intention of seeking a merger with any other clubs — now or in the future."

Stott will now concentrate on his attempts to become the new chairman of the Football Association. He declared his availability last week, although recent events at Oldham will hardly cement his chances of succeeding Keith Wiseman, the former chairman. The FA Council will decide on a new man at the end of the season.

Arnar Gunnlaugsson, the Bolton Wanderers striker, has

manager, to accuse him of acting out of "pure greed". After months of uncertainty, Gunnlaugsson, the leeland international, has turned down a new contract to stay with the first division club. There has been interest in the player, who has scored 14 goals this season, from Leicester City and Nottingham Forest, the FA Carling Premiership clubs, although Bolton's valuation of around £3.5 million could put any suitors off. Walter Smith, the manager

handed in a transfer request,

prompting Colin Todd, his

of Everton, is considering recalling John Spencer from his loan spell at Motherwell, the Scottish Premier League club. Spencer accused Smith of not giving him a chance to prove himself at Goodison Park, but Everton are struggling to score and Smith needs all possible options available to him



TUNKS	TRESTELLED E	
6/4 FULHAM	11/5 DRAW Craven Cottage, Kick-off 7.45pm, Live	SOUTHAMPTON 6/4
7/11-0	SOTON FULHAM 10/3	FIRST GOALSCORER 11/2

Making the most of a worthless exercise

Michael Henderson reports from Melbourne on the merit of

England's successive one-day wins

THE triangular one-day competition, in which England are pitted against Australia and Sri Lanka, is of no great significance. It is a bloated enter-prise, which will not be reolved until two of the teams play off against each other in three "finals" next month. They love this sort of thing here because it brings in sacks of dollars, but that does not

mean it is important. So far as England are concerned - and the others as well - the only relevance it may have is as an indicator. with the World Cup four months away, but that is a bit of a red herring. The World Cup will be played in England, where pitches are different to Australia at the height of summer. It is really no sort of indicator at all.

The benefits that England can accrue from this unnecessarily long tournament are those that normally come from winning matches. It is better than losing them, so, although David Lloyd and his players are pleased to have won their first two games, beat-ing Australia and Sri Lanka in the humidity of Brisbane, there is no danger of them thinking that they have done anything worth writing home

It gives the players the chance to work together and Lloyd, the England coach, knows that there is plenty of work to do, particularly on their fielding. Mobility in the field is vitally important." Lloyd said. "We want people who can get to the ball quickly, get it in quickly and knock the stumps out of the ground. Fielding in one-day cricket is hard work and requires tremendous concentration. We are getting better, but there is rings of possibility. more to do.

Lloyd would not be drawn on Sri Lanka's go-slow bowiing policy on Sunday night. when Ranatunga, their captain, seemed to be intent on trying to prevent the England batsmen from gaining any

momentum. "If they slow down the tempo," Lloyd said, "then we must pick it up. We have to combat what they are trying to do." Evidently, there is not much love lost between the England coach and the folk who run the Sri Lanka team.

The first victory in Brisbane owed a lot to Alan Mulially's bowling, the second to Neil Fairbrother's batting. Six months ago, neither man would have put much money on the likelihood of his playing in the World Cup. Now they will both be involved even if, in Fairbrother's case, Graham Thorpe regains full match-fitness before the end of next month, when England must announce their 15-man

It is a big "if". Privately, England have given up hope of Thorpe declaring his availability. His back complaint requires a much longer peri-od of recuperation than the next chapter of the England story will allow. Better by far that he has a good long rest and comes back into the Test team fully recovered and hungry for cricket. He has played a lot of it in the past ten years.

The break may do him good. Fairbrother's Test days are behind him, but his contribution to the one-day team has not been finally measured. So far, with innings of 47 and 67 not out, he has justified his recall and, as Lloyd said of the man who was inically Thorpe's shadow", he is now the man in possession".

Most of the players "in pos-session" will remain there. England may not know the precise composition of the team that will start the World Cup, there has been too much chopping and changing in the past year for anybody to state it with conviction, but something is taking shape, if only because some players have been banished to the outer

Nevertheless, it seems strange that Alistair Brown, the hard-hitting Surrey opener, is no longer a contender, given the damaging nature of his batting in limited-overs cricket, but there it is.

Knight and Stewart will open, with Hick and Fairbrother to follow at four and five, and Adam Hollioake at No 6. His brother, Ben. given every chance to make an unassailable case for selection, has fall-

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Mullally and Fairbrother, below, have made the most of their opportunities to shine



en by the wayside. The problem of finding somebody to bat first wicket down is no nearer resolution.

If the selectors feel that Vince Wells, of Leicestershire, is a genuine contender for that position, then they should sit down for a long time in a darkened room. Nor is it entirely clear what Mark Alleyne, the Gloucestershire captain, is doing here. These men have been

around for years. To what do they owe this sudden promotion, other than being "good sorts", who can bowl a bit?

India make hard work of victory BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NAPIER (India won toss): Ganguly had followed for 38. India beat New Zealand by

INDIA made heavy work of a modest target in the second one-day international yesterday of their series against New Zealand, but they managed to eke out a narrow win with one ball to spare. The vic-

two wickets

tory that brought the five-match series level at 1-1. Chasing a disappointing New Zealand total of 213, Sachin Tendulkar and Sanray Ganguly gave India a fine start, plundering 50 from the first eight overs. However, the loss of Tendulkar, caught at slip off Nash for 23, slowed the momentum and, once wickets fell regularly. New Zealand, indebted to a

second-wicket partnership of 76 between Horne and McMillan that kept their innings on track, suffered the loss of Geoff Allott from their attack after bowling six balls. but Vettori's careful spin bowling kept them in the bunt. Run-outs cost the home side dearly, with five batsmen perishing to that manner.

India, who lost the Test series 1-0, were relieved to return to winning form, even if they were taken to the final over. Eight runs were required from it, but a streaky four by Kumble off the third ball virtually settled the issue.

SCOREBOARD FROM NAPIER

M.J. Home the o Terculius . . . 61

R G Tende national 3 C L Corra e Presed a Number 44 t A C Parare st Manga a Tendahar 7

Total (49.3 overs)_____213 FALL OF WOKETS 1-6, 2-82, 3-83, 4-157, 5-156, 5-175, 7-179, 3-184, 3-197

5-13-1. Tendukar 8-3-45-0 Picasad 5-2-14-0 Kumble (3-0-38-1, Sengthy 6-0-33-1. Tendukar 8-3-0-34-3, Gangaly 2-0-13-0 Oncora 3-1-27-0

S C Garouly c Partie b Nach S R Tendukar c Young b Nach R Drawd c Partie b Vertori M Acharuddin c Partie b Larsen A Jadeja nun out R R Snigh & Home b Vetton..... Edits (b 1, b 4, w 2, rb 2) 9

Total (8 wkts, 49.5 overs).214 BKY Presed dd not ber FALL OF WICKETS 1-50, 2-81, 3-91, 4-121, 5-152, 6-164, 7-182, 8-204 BOMUNG Cams 10-37-0; Alon 22-0-21-0; MoMan 0.4-0-50; Nash 95-0-43-2; Harris 10-3-27-0; Larsen 10-1-44-1; Vetton 7-1-30-2;

Umpires RS During and CE Kind.

(b) The ground-nut or peanut. "In the valleys of the Red River of

Louisiana and Texas are to be found negroes who use many

Auswers from page 38

African words, the inheritance of their ancestors. A white man is a 'buckra'. A ground-nut (peanut) is a 'pinda'." (b) The part of the blade of a sword that is next to the hill. The Italian word. The use of the ricasso to obtain a better grip on the sword had led to the introduction of loops, rings and bars

attached to the hilt." OCCOTILLO (b) A spiny shrub. Fouquiera splendens, of the family Fouquier-aceae, native to the north-western United States and Mexico, and bearing narrow inconspicuous leaves and panicles of red flow-

ers. American Spanish diminutive of ocote, which is a resinous Mexican pine. "You know the ocotillo." Ben said, pointing out the cartus that looks like five or six spirty, 10-foot pieces of rope snaking up into the air." REVERDIE

(b) In medieval French lyric poetry: a song which celebrates the reappearance of spring. The Dark Days are By. In March 1940. he uses the simplest and barest of words to convey the mood of a

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE I, Qxg6! and if I. . . . hxg6: 2. Rh8 is mate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

The female prerogative

BBC2:3.00mm

The theme of this second report on sex in the animal world is fussy females. Since they bear the burden of breeding it is not unreasonable that they should be choosy about their partners. To illustrate should be choosy about their partners. To illustrate this proposition the cameras travel to Costa Rica, Uganda, the Mediterranean and Papua New Guinea, providing copious and varied examples of how females select their mate. For female royal terms the male has to prove himself adept at catching the fish that will fill mouths, while male weaver birds must be good nest builders. But the most demanding of female birds is the long-tailed mamakin. She makes her prospective partners dance for hours before deciding which one of more than 40 to mate with. than 40 to mate with.

Wing and a Prayer Channel 5, 8,00pm

The legal drama deservedly returns for a second series, soon to lose one of its main characters but bolstered by the arrival of two new ones. Curiously, since Matthew Hall, who created the show and writes several of the episodes, is a former barrister, the one weakness of the show is the barrister, the one weakness of the show is the artificiality of the courtroom dialogue. Real witnesses are seldom as expansive and outspoken as they are here, though this undoubtedly adds to the exchanges. But the juggling of the lawyers professional and private lives is as deft as ever and gives the narrative pace, exture and variety. As for personnel changes, Kate Buffery's Amanda Dankwith, QC, the head of Salthouse Chambers, is about to vacate the post to take a fraud case in the smoke. This opens the way for a newcomer, played by Maureen Beattle, while Dominic Maftam joins the cast as a younger lawyer.

Mersey Blues

Jenny Crowther's documentary about Merseyside Police has already made news for an incident in which a senior detective filmed for the series is arrested and charged with corruption. But there is no hint of this in the opening programme, which shows a force fighting an unfull battle against organised crime against a background of financial

Sound Stories: Fends Corner : Radio 3: 11.00am You would be amazed how many people hate Sound Stories they get in a terrible lather about it. Some complain of the celebrity presenters (this week Richard Baker), others that the programme trivialises the music by being too concerned with the personalities involved. Rot and balderdash, I enjoy these music-and-word pictures and the present run of programmes, focusing on feuds in music, today considers the spats between Berlioz and his former teacher, Cherubini, the latter being

therefore the self-professed protector of rigid ortho-doxy in music, something Berlioz was quite deter-mined to overthrow. The choice of music today moe-ly illustrates the differing approaches of the two. RADIO 1 (BBC)

the doyen of the Paris music scene at the time and

8.30mm Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Kevin Greenin 2.00 Mark Redolffe 4.00 Chris Moyler 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamaco The Evening Session 10.00 Moyle Update with Mark Kermode 10.10 John Peel 12.00cm Giles Peterson 2.00 Ofwe Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RAOJO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogen 9.30 Ken Bruce 72.00pm Jermy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Waker 7.00 Jok; Berradough 8.00 Whe Harding 9.00 Ties Andy Peebles Soul Show (6/73) 10.00 Route 85 Revisied with Nick Barradough (6/7) 10.30 Richard Alimen 12.00mm Katrins Leskanich 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00mm Morning Reports 6.00 Breeldest with Mick Robinson and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News with Annie Webster 1.00 Ruscue and Co.4.00 Drive with Peter Alien and Jame Gervey 7.00 News Edita 7.30 John Inverdale's Footbell Night. Coverage of the night's action. Plus, the National Lottery draw 10.00 Littlefohn 11.00 Later Night. Live with Briss Hayes 1.00mm Up All Night.

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Ruse Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harnet Scott 8.45 Mark Forrest 10.00 Richard Alben 1.00am Jernes Memti 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RAGIO 8.00mm Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks and Nick Fenant 9.00 Scott Chisnofm 12.00pms Justice with Jacobs 1.00 Anna Raebum 3.00 Peter Dealey's Divistme 5.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 James Whale 1.00mm Ian Collins

Gobin; Franz Warman (Carmon Ferilasy)

Missterworks with Peter Hobday. Gebries
(Carzon a 7), Haydin (Perino Trio in C, H XV 27);
Faure (Petiess et Meiseande), Granados (Los requiebros, Goyescas); Michael Haydin (Horn Concerto in D), Tchailcovsky (Romeo and Jusier Fartasy Overtural)

Rocco Forte features in the first of a new series, Blood on the Carpet (BBC2, 950om)

crisis. Nearly £20 million has to be trimmed from the budget in three years. For the Drug Squad, the focus of tonight's episode, this means no money for the overtime which inevitably results from short staffing. The officers agree to "do it for the Queen", to work the extra hours for nothing. But this may not last and one detective says morale is the lowest he has known. It is significant that the new head of the squad has little drug busting experience but a reputation for looking after the pennies.

Blood on the Carpet

A series about business battles gets off ma rattling start by recalling Granada's acrimonious takeover of the Forte hotel and catering empire. The
film is enriched by extensive interviews with the
two leading players. Sir Rocco Forte is the son of
Sir Charles, who started with a single milk bar and
was still guiding the company in his eighnies.
Against the gemlemanly grouse shooting Rocco is
pitched Gerry Robinson, from an Irish workingclass background and known for ruthless costcutting from which even too managers are not
safe. Robinson and Forte make the battle personal
by publicly trading insults before Robinson surges
to victory. The film charts the effect on the Rotte
company (many senior people broke down in tears) BBC2, 9.50pm company (many senior people broke down in tears) and Rocco's comeback in the hotel business. Peter Waymark

Marder, Magic and Medicine Radio 4. 11.00am

Recenity Woman's Hour told a disturbing tale of a

Recently Woman's Hour told a disturbing tale of a man who had a sore throat and bought one of the proprietory treatments from a chemist. He became addicted and spent vast sums of money buying huge quantities of the stuff from pharmacists all over the country, carting the haut home in plastic carrier bags. With that in mind, this new series is among other things, a salutary lesson in just what we are taking in when we swallow routine medicines. Migraine? One cure comes from a mould that killed 40,000 people in the 10th century.

Most successful medicines originate from plants. Most successful medicines originate from plants and the series starts by tracing the point at which herbalism and modern western techniques began to take different paths. Peter Barnard

1250

5.25 Media:

6.30 Repairs Law Color

Name :

State Of the Pro-

\$

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.35 Outlock 7.35 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Shelf: Sites Manner 8.35 One Planet 8.00 World News 9.06 Britain Now 8.20 World. Ranking 9.30 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Britain: Today 10.45 Wild: Isles 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Sports International 12.00 ppm World News 2.05 One Planet 2.30 Medician Live 3.00 World News 3.05 Sports. Pound-Up 3.15 From Out. Own Conceptonders 3.30 Jazzmetez 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30. Multitatic X-Press 5.00. Europa. Joddey 5.30. World Business Report 6.45 Sports Round-Up 3.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30. Multitatic X-Press 5.00. Europa. Joddey 5.30. World Business Report 6.45 Sports Round-Up 3.00 World News 7.05 One Planet 7.30 Wild Tales 7.46 Off the Shelf: Sites Marrier 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 8.05 World Business Report 6.45 Sports 10.00 World News 7.05 One Planet 7.30 Wild Tales 7.46 Off the Shelf: Sites Marrier 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 8.05 World Business Report 8.20 Britain Today 9.30 On Screen 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitack; X-Press 11,00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitack; X-Press 11,00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitack; X-Press 11,00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 3.20 Everyourner 3.00 The World Today 3.30 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6:00 we Nick Belley's Balsier Breeklast. Scothing music and information updates 8:00 Herry Kelly. The Hell of Farme Hour, and favourite pieces voted for in the Classic PM Top 300 12:00 per Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spirs listeners' levourite pieces of dassical music 2:00 Concerto. Offenbech (Concerto Militaire in G mejor) 3:00 Jamie Crick Including Attenuori Floriance and Continuous Classics 6:30 Newsright. Headthes, arts news and guests introduced by John Brunning. 7:00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces eesy-listening sounds 9:00 Evening Concert. Mozart (Sinfonia Concertne in E list; Belefiover (Symphony No 2 in D) 11:00 Mann at Night. Music and conversation for the sarty hours with Alan Mann 2:00 and Concerto. Offenbach (Concerto Militaire in G major) (7:3:00 Mark Griffiths, The Early Breaklast Show

6.00am On All: with Petroc Trelawny, Includes Chopin Nocture in E Rat, Op 9 No 2); Dyorak (The Wate

Concesto in Di, Tchakovsky (Romeo and Josef Fartasy Overture)

10.30 Artist of the Week Emanuel Ax.

11.00 Sound Stories: Feuds Corner Richard Baker looks at the complex relationship between Chentars and Berino: See Choice.

12.00pm Composer of the Week Rissaky-Korsekov 1.00 The Rissico 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Adrian Bouth Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire. Srephane Gonley, violat, John Lenehan, piano. Beethoven (Violin Sonata in Alminor, Op 23); Schoenberg (Phantasy, Op 47); Brahme (Violin Sonata No 2 in A. Op 100)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras Uister Orchestra under Chartes Hadewood and Nicholas Braithweite, Cliry Gould, volan.

4.00 Choral Evensong Live from Manchester Carhedral. Organist and master of the chonsters Christopher Stokes. Sub-organist Matthew Owens.

5.00 in Tune Sean Raiferty talks to Robert von Bahr of BS Records.

6.00 Performance on 3 Live from the Eden Court Theatre, inverses, introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville, BBC Scotlish Symphony Orchestra under Jezzy Malssymluk, liya fin, plano, Alesclair Nicolson (Breakdance): Rachmaninov (Plano Concerto No 3 in D minor) 8.55 News from North Britain: Virtual, by by All Smith. The first of live new stories from Scotland 9.15 Concert, part two.
Ducrak (Symphony No 7 in O minor)

10.05 Postecript: The Red Flag and the Red Mask 10.30 Cyrti Scott (Symphonic Dance No 1). Performed by Percy Grainger and the composer, planos 10.45 Right Waves with Laura Cumming 11.30 Jezz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the second of two programmes leaturing Cloo Laine and the Alec and John Denkooth Generation Band 12.00ant Composer of the Weetc Popieson (1) 1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. 1.00 Hungarian Radio Orchestra under Charles Munch 2.05 Nes (The Urranswered Question) 2.40 Pagarian (Violin Sonata in A minor) 3.00-5.00 Schools: Time and Tune 3.20 Together 3.40 Dance Workshop 4.00 EAL Dance 4.20 TBA 5.00 Stockus (Valse Tinste) 5.30 Ponce (Prelucies)

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Instone Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Arina Hill 6.00 Today Introduced by James Naughte and Writing Robusson 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 Mildweek Lively conversation with the Times Libby December 10 uses.

9.00 Michweek (Liesy conversation with the Times Libby Puries and quests
9.45 (LW) beiny Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Coom Doyle Michael Williams reads part three of Martin Booth's biography (r)
10.00 Wenter's Hour with Jerni Murray and quests
11.00 Michael C'Donnel investigates the roots of modern remedies. See Choce (1/6)
11.30 Choloe Grantiell Maurean Lipman reinterprets
Joyce Grentell's monologues and songs (3/4)
12.00pm (LW) News Headlings, Shipping Forecast
12.00 FM) News 12.04 Year and Yours Trole
FMS News 12.04 Year and Yours Trole
FMS Sind Investigations

news and investigations
1.00 The World of One Presented by Nick Clarke
1.30 Wildbrain Lonel Kalleway chairs the final of the

widific our 2.00 The Archers (r)

2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Plays Voyages of Descent Clare
See's table exploring the themes of evolution and creation With James MacPherson and Robin Thomson Nanated by Fenella Fictions
3.00 Cardeners' Question Time John Cushnie, Bob Floweders and Arise Switinbark answer questions posed by gardeners in Comitted (r)
3.30 Tales from the Village Joe! Ribazo miestigates the reigion of Legion Marie, which combines Catholicism with ancient mith (3/5) (r)
3.45 This Seegared late Arma Massey narrates the Norman Conquest (r)

4.00 Case Notes Special: No lessue Tracey Logan examines the luture of lentilly (r)

4.30 Thiology Allowed with Polly Toynbee and guests 5.00 PM Introduced by Clare English and Eddie Meir 6.00 Sec O'Clock News

6.30 Like They've Never Bean Gone Mike Coleman's comedy, staming Roy Hudd and June Whitfield as a showbiz couple who find tame again. With Pat Coumbs and Juffan Eardley (r)

7.00 The Archers

7.15 Frout Row John Wilson presents the arcs programme, looking at the work of the New York painter Julian Schrabbet as a new exhibition opens in Britain

programme, looking at the work of the New York painter Julian Schrabel as a new exhibition opens in Bottom

7.45 Lady Susam by Jane Austen. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour II)

8.00 Them and Us Diama Madili chairs a debate on whether filegal drugs have become so common-place that their use is widely accepted (3/3)

8.45 Gerry's Bur Geny Anderson reflects on life in the Republic of Ireland (r)

9.00 Antimists Sehaving Badily Mike Convardine looks at animals debatings the Republic of Ireland (r)

9.30 Midweek (r)

10.45 Book at Badilima: Nature Part eight

11.00 The World Tonight with Anne McKanzie

10.45 Book at Badilima: Nature Part eight

11.00 Late Night on 4: Seas Look's 15 Minutes of Misery The award-winning comedian Sean Look presents his own brand of downbear humour cartifuction in 1970s Cambridgeshire (2/5)

11.30 (FM) The Cheese Shop Presents Cornedy Sections Nature Nature Parts (2/5)

Skickes (i)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00am Nava 12.30 The Late Book Last Resort
Kate Harper reads part three of Alson Luid's tale
12.46 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1. FM 97.5498. RADIO 2. FM 88.040.2: RADIO 3. FM 902-824. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 196. RRY 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 649; LW 198 (12.4 CLASSIC PM. PM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. PM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1088 Television and radio fletings compiled by lan Hughes, Resembly Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane 6.

- I Market Town on the second of
Hospital beds? You must be off your trolley

وكذامن الميهل

drama, Holby City (BBC) was born from Casualty the way Softly Softly emerged from the long-running Z Cars, the way Cheers gave birth to Frasier, and the way one Carol Vorderman show split, like an amoeba, to become two Carol Vorderman programmes and then four Carol Vorderman programmes, and then eight, then 16. Politics works in much the same way, as each of the central characters on the political stage gets a chance to make a pilot for its very own - hopefully

ratings-grabbing — series.

It's a difficult trick to pull off. The much-publicised Robin Cook soap opera, which is the latest spin-off from new Labour's main storyline, merely reinforces the feeling among viewers that Downing Street has yet to get the hang of creating an appealing central character in its dramatic babies. It's quite possible that Holby

City itself is a New Labour Production, since it painted a far rosier picture of the NHS than Frank Dobson has been managing to do. There were no bed shortages. No freezer lorries in the car park filled with the overspill from the hospital morgue, no dire shortage of nurses, no invalids sleeping on trolleys.

When, early in this opening episode talk turned to how a donor had been located and how a team from Holby would have to fly to a hospital in Cornwall to collect the precious object, many of us were expecting surgical registrar Nick Jordan (Michael French) to return to Holby bearing a valuable bed. But it turned out to be a heart. After that Holby City, like too many medical dramas, became confused: it momentarily thought. it was part of an Open University heart-transplant operation in such.

detail that medical students could

lecture notes. And so much blood! You can only assume that someone in the props department had mistakenly over-ordered the fake blood, and that the cast decided they might as well get through the stockpile as quickly as possible.

t all moves along at a steady

pace, and the main characters play their parts convincingly enough, but it can't help having the feel of "ER Lite" about it. This is the tragedy for shows which hit our screens at the same time as masterpieces of the genre. Pity anyone launching their sittom when Seinfeld or Larry Sanders is on air. You'd have included the brilliant Frasier on this list until last week, only now you even feel pity for the bumptious Seattle psychiatrist it must be tough for Frasier Crane to watch Robin Cook on TV and to have to acknowledge that there is now an REVIEW

Joe Joseph

even a bigger, vainer buffoon on the box than himself. Michael Portillo is another politi-cian trying his hand at a solo screen career, independent of the house") in which he first enjoyed a starring role. In Great Railway Journeys (BBC2), the former Tory Transport Minister chugged from Granada to Salamanca, showing

us en route a side of Portillo we

who isn't constantly pledging to stick by William Hague in his hour of need, thereby indirectly highlighting what a mess the Tory leader is in.

Portillo takes the opportunity to reminds us that his Spanish father was a poet and law professor who showed his love of socialism and democracy by joining the Republi-cans in the Spanish Civil War, while at the same time showing his love for his family by refusing to carry a gun lest he accidentally kill one of his six brothers, all of whom fought for Franco. But only a cynic (not you, sir, surely!) would see this film as part of Portillo's attempt to show us that he isn't the insensitive xenophobe he is painted by his political enemies

Twe never been in any doubt that I'm temperamentally half Spanish," he told us, screwing his face into his distant, thoughtful expression, the one one that makes

thing distasteful and is waiting for a convenient break in filming to spit it out. "I get emotional, and I have that Castilian concern about things like dignity and honour."
But in order to show us that he had gained a new perspective on life since losing his seat in May 1997, he also reflected on the sacrifices that his father had to make in order to flee fascism - leaving behind his family, his job, the country he loved - and said that they put "firmly in context the setbacks that the rest of us sometimes suffer: they are as nothing. Well, all these things may be perfectly true, but who's going to

ut there were nostalgic glimpses of the old Portillo remember shining through. Over a family lunch with his Spanish relatives, Portillo's

believe them when it's a politician

his father was the middle of the seven bothers. "He's saying that the middle position is the position of virtue," Michael translated for the camera, adding: "It must be a Spanish expression!" It's certainly not a British politician expression - at any rate not one that would have tripped off Portillo's tongue during his Smith Square days. (Channel 4), blended together a

compendium of spooky facts about rats the size of Cabinet ministers.

6.00am Business Breakfast (45232) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (21329) 9.00 Killroy (T) (8609665) 9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (5145435) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (7011329) 11.00 Reel Rooms (7021706) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7928665)

11.55 News; Weather (1) (1217961) 12.00pm Call My Bluff (89690) 12.30 Battersea Dogs' Home (94874) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (24416) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (86632665). 1.40 Neighbours: Ruth faces a professional

dilemma (1) (65312481) 2.05 Ironside A hitman is hired to do away with the canny copper before he can testify at a syndicate trial (r) (7605855) 2.55 Going for a Song (8590110) 3.20 The Weather Show (T) (2094961)

3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (7191510) 3.45 Little Monsters (9189961) 3.50 ChuckleVision (8023023) 4.10 See it Saw It (6932495) 4.35 The Wild House (1664597) 5.00 Newsround (5401226) 5.10 Blue Peter (6534481)

5.35 Neighbours (†) (†) (703435) 6.00 Skr O'Clock News; Weather (†) (481) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (961) 7.00 Wildlife on One Intimate portrait of a pack of wild wolves living in the Canadian Arctic, showing how the family copes with the harsh conditions (f) (T) (9058)

7.30 Dream House The walls of the home are erected in time for Carol Vorderman to take a four of the building, while Adam Woodyatt rates the best and worst lawnmowers on the market (1) (145). 8.00 Changing Rooms Neighbours in South Wales are challenged to revamp a room in each other's houses (1) (8706).

8.30 Battersee Dogs' Home The actor Simon Callow Introduces his ex-Battersea resident Lurcher (T) (972139) 8.50 National Lottery: Amazing Linck Stories (1) (947058) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News;

Weather (T) (5077)



9.30 The X Files Mulder and Scully recall their own version of events leading to the death of an alleged teenage vamplie. With Gillian Anderson and Devid: Duchovny (1) (662394) 10.15 Don't Call Us Documentary tracing the

history of the talent show (T) (809023) Confessions of the Cheshire Set Insight into the lives of Cheshire's high-society elite (1)-(708955).

11.40 In the Deep Woods (7WM 1992).

Mystery thriller, starting Rosanna.

Arquette as a children's author drawn.

into the search for a victous serial killer. With Anthony Perkins Directed by Charles Correll (1) (414752) 1.10am Weather (4811153)

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show

Oam Children's BBC Breakfast Show:
Tales of the Tooth Pairies (8992923) 7.05
Teletubbles (2967400) 7.30 Yog's
Treasura Hunt (3919232) 7.55 The Really
Wild Show (2248394) 8.13 Resend
(8713961) 8.15 Taz-Manis (5749145)
8.40 Polite Det Shorts (8242435) 8.50
Brum (8248619) 9.00 Daytime On Two:
Enwronment (7168690) 9.10 What?
Whers? When? Why? (7082226) 9.25 The
Art (6507706) 9.45 Words and Pichuras
(8272042) 10.00 Children's BBC:
Teletubbles (16955) 10.30 Daytime On
Two: Numbertime (5848226) 10.45 Cats'
Eyes (5838481) 11.00 Around Scotland
(1566990) 11.20 The Geography
Programme (6410771) 11.40 Science in
Action (2242313) 12.00ps Revista

Action (2242313) 12.90pm Revista (4063961) 12.15 Hallo aus Bertin (9396313) 12.30 Working Lunch (92415) 1.00 Brum (73603110) 1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (2428752) 2.10 Sporting Greats (22229348) 2.40 Mews; Weather (T) (8982313) 2.45 Westminster (T) (6873110)

3.55 News; Weather (1) (9680145) 4.00 That's Entertainment, Part Two (1976)
Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly introduce a
compilation of MGM musical and cornedy highlights (1) (9435)

6.00 Ster Treic. The Next Generation Alien historians arrive to conduct research on the crew (r) (T) (536597)

6.45 Buffy the Vampire Stayer Buffy battles a glant praying mentis (T) (930684)

7.30 Tales from the Riverbank Insight into

the life-cycle of a salmon as it journeys along Scotland's rivers (r) (1) (787) Rettle of the Seces insight into "girl power" in the animal kingdom (1) (6348).



9.00 Mersey Blues New series offering an insight into the work of Merseyside Police (1) (431110) Blood on the Carpet New series. Investigations into dodgy dealings in the commercial world (1/8):(1) (285394)

An armed officer of the Merseyside

ranight (1) (325771) 11.15 Trial by Jury The jury hear Mark's lover give exidence (3/3) (T) (556329) 11.55 Weather (748416) 12.00 Describer Box (48443)

12:30em BBC Learning Zone: Open University: The Birth of Liquid Crystals 1.00 Hidden Visions 1.30 Lifetimes 2.00 Schools: The IT Collection 4.00 Scribos: The New Get By in Spanish
— Part 2, 5.00 Business and Trehwig:
Voluntary Matters — Achleving Your Aims
,5.30.20 Steps to Better Management —
The Art of brillience 5.45 Open University. Immigration, Prejudice and Ethnicity 6.35
The Passionate Statistician

5.30am ITN Morning News (92684) 6.00 GMTV (6897890) 9.25 Trisha (T) (3661981)

10.30 This Morning (T) (24165771) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (9399139) 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (16042) 1.00 Next Stop Richard Wyati, Polly Lloyd and correspondents are in Wootton Bessett, Wittshire, where they review local developments (46684)

1.30 Home and Away Sam feels unwanted (1) (103/a)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous
American task show (1) (2902145)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (1) (173455)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (1) (2099416) 3.20 HTV News (1) (2096329)

3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2906752) 3.35 Teddybears (8528874) 3.45 Jumenii (8484884) 4.10 Whizziwig (9500955) 4.40 Mad for It (7112787) 5.10 A Country Practice Perce has a problem (6800918)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (1) (238226) 5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (381503) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (563665) 6.30 The West Tonight (T) (329)

7.00 Emmerdele Steve and Kim take the stand (1) (1226) 7.30 Coronation Street Les looks for a roof over his head (T) (313)



Big-prize game show (1) (3874) 8.30 Police, Camera, Action! Alastai Stewart focuses on car their (r) (1) (9481)

9.00 Garages From Helf Car-owners convinced they've been ripped off by unscrupulous mechanics get the chance to see their worst suspicions confirmed in this one-off documentary (1) (2619) 10.00 News at Ten; Weather (1) (62787) 10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (454665)

10.40 The Big Match Highlights of tonight's FA Cup third-round replays (21395329) 12.15am Fatal Deception: Mrs Lee Harvey Oswaid (TVM 1993) Fact-based drama, stamng Helena Bonham Carter as the wile of JFK's alleged assassin. With

Frank Whaley and Robert Picardo. Directed by Robert Domhelm (168658) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (2188240) 2.40 Masterclass The art of songwilling (2/9) (9561801)

3.10 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (3225424) 4.15 Picking the Fruit: The Making of Still Crazy Behind the scenes of the comedy :film (r) (95889153) 4.40 Soundtrax Cutting-edge sounds

A.SO ITV Nichtscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (25605248) 5.00 Coronation Street (1) (1) (40462)

As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central News (6088787) 1.00 Echo Point (46684)

1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9937042) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (605464) 3.20-3.25 Central News (2096329) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6800918) 6.25-7.00 Central News; Weether (506961) 10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (454665) 4.05am Central Jobfinder '99 (8958998)

As HTV West except 12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News;

5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4242153)

(9399139) 12-27-12-30 Illuminations (6096706) 1.00 Emmerdale (46684) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9937042) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (605464) 3.20-3.25 Westcountry News; Weather (2096329)

5.08 Birthday People (8520936) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6800918) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (97961) 10.30-10.40 Westcountry News; We (454865)

As HTV West except: 12.15-12.30pm Meridian

1.00-1.35 Shortland Street (1252110) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6800918) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (357) 5,30-7.00 Birdwatch (329) 10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weether

5.00-5.30em Freescreen (40462)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Wirtch (6994394) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (6088787) 1.00-1.35 Upshod (r) (6800918) 6.23 Anglia Weather (916348) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (T) (506961) 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (825058) 10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather (T) (454665)

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (21700955) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (47095690) 9.00 Yagolion: Antoine De Caunes Tour de France (16590936) 9.30 Rades-Tat-Tat (59623690) 9.45 Book Box (69628145) 10.00 Stage Two Science (35798955) 10.15 All About Us (35884706) 10.30 The French Programme (17366329) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (93876597) 11.00 Dwr Aer Tir (18082400) 11.15 Tackling Technology (18052023) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (24951145) 12.00pm Bewtiched (T) (16503400) 12.30 Sesame Street (38878874) 1.00 Planed Plant; (T) Ffwrdd a ni (54449348) 1.15 Mill (54437503) 1.30 FILM: The Bishop's Wife (T) (99982955) 3.30 Hampton Court Palace (1) (56285481) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One Highlights (1) (56377416) 4.30

(9637/416) 4.30

Ricid Lake (T) (56293400) 5.00 Planed Plant (27680990) 5.30 Countdown (T) (56284752) 8.00 Newyddion 6 (T) (69163042) 6.10 Heno (T) (95872139) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (T) (72539446) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (58374329) 8.00 Flermio (T) (21280954) 8.30 Paclo (81084351) 9.00 ER (r) (T) (77352634) 10.00 Brookside (T) (54052042) 10.35 ER (r) (T) (763535130) 41.30 Mark Townes Councily (36335139) 11.30 Mark Thomas Comedy Product (35705961) 12.00am Comedy Lab (98728511) 12.35 Football Italia: Mezzanotte (66161646) 3.00 Trans World Sport

CHANNEL 4 6.00em Seeame Street (65042) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (41139)

doing the talking?

9.00 Schoole: French Express (76936) 9.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat (8279955) 9.45 Book Box (8267110) 10.00 Stage Two Science (9569348) 10.15 Air About Us (9479771) 10.30 Channel Hopping (3221706) 10.50 Stop, Look, Listen (2660139) 11.00 First Edition VI (6401023) 11.15 Tackling Technology (6597874)

11.30 Powerhouse (1) (6752) 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (89400) 12.30pm Bewitched (T) (14684) 1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights of the show's first series (r) (T) (44226)

1.30 Roots to Success (T) (86649955) 1.45 Wee Willie Winide (1937) A widow and her young daughter move to a British Army outpost in India, Staming Shirley Temple, C. Aubrey Smith and June Lang. Directed by John Ford (T) (77537058)

3.30 Hampton Court Palace (1) (435) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (482) 4.30 Countdown (1) (1658936) 4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (4769394) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (706)

5.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Chai and 6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Chat and cookery with special guests Lorraine Kelly and Michelle Collins (T) (95503)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (274145)
7.50 Gifbert and Sullivan: The Vary Models The effects of The Mikado's success on the writing duo (T) (810145) 8.00 Brookside Luke is under suspicion (1)

8.30 The Real Hollday Show True-life tales of vacation highs and lows, including a on various in the street of the speed boat in Majorca (8/8) (T) (7023) 9.00 ER Ross comes under fire for his one-night stand with a medical student then lays his career on the line by taking

controversial action to save a child's lifa. George Clooney and Anthony Edwards star (r) (1) (3961) 10.00 ER Ross visits his estranged father, leaving the emergency unit jam-packed with women in labour (r) (1) (4648961)



series of topical comedy (11.05pm)

11.05 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Nev series. Topical observations from cornedy writer Mark Thomas, featuring stand-up performances and ludicrous real-life hoaxes (T) (915706) 11.30 Comedy Lab Jason Byrne (74135) 12.00 Board Stupid (/) (5861578)

12.35am Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of last week's action (34661004) (36191)

4.00 Submarine Patrol (1938) Cornecy adverture, starring Preston Foster as a disgraced US Navy officer put in charge of a run-down wooden vessel and its modey crew during the First World War. Directed by John Ford (151882) Mark Lewis's cunning film, Rat

New York's rat community with a series of mini-soaps in which owners of rat-infested apartments re-enacted their battles with their unwanted guests: most lost. One exterminator from New York's Bureau of Pest Control told Lewis: I've seem some that were the size of a racoon, and when you see that you know something's wrong." But that's just empty New York brag-ging: in London we've been seeing

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky

Anderson (7900145) 7.00 WideWorld Part four. How marine creatures have evolved (r) (T) (9005348) 7.30 Milkshakel (4659351)

7.35 Wimzie's House (r): 5 News Updata (9729961) 8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1096752)

8.30 Deppledown Farm (r); 5 News Update 9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (2772435)

9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4794690) 9.30 The Oprah Wintrey Show (6455597) 10.20 Sunset Beach Califin leaves Cole (T) (2126145) 11.10 Leeza (r) (2933771)

12.00pm 5 News at Noon (1) (1008139) 12.30 Family Affairs Jamie leaves home (r) (T); 5 News Update (9872868) 1,00 The Bold and the Beautiful James

offers Sheila a place to stay (1) (9004619) 1.30 The Roseerine Show The outrogeous comedienne chats with Joan Collins; 5 News Update (9871139) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6292139)

2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment, featuring word game Cryptogram, real-tifa soap Liverpool Murns and Selfing the Family Silver, with Eric Knowles; (News Update (4557503)

3.30 Joe Dancer: The Big Trade (TVM 1981) The private investigator attempts to unravel the truth behind the mystenous killing of a rising movie star on the set of his latest film. Thriller, starring Robert Blake, Directed by Reza Badiyl (9588394)

5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T): 5 News Update (6017023) 6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz

(5226348) 6.30 Family Affairs Annie confesses her true

eelings (1) (5137400) 7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories, including First on Five (1)

7.30 Champions of the Wild Dr Colin Chapman's efforts to save Uganda's (T); 5 News Update (5133684)

8.00 CHOICE Wing and a Prayer New series of the hard-hitting legal Dominic Matham star (1/8) (1); 5 News

9.00 Hostille Force (1996) A petry criminal organises a bank heist, but falls for a former policewoman he takes hostage during the raid — will their new-found love prevent her from foiling his plan? Action thriller, starring Andrew McCarthy, Cynthia Geary and Wolf Larsen. Directed by Michael Kennedy (T): 5 News Update (12243936)

10.50 Not Melinda's Big Night in With Tara-Palmer Tomkinson (3451706) 11.30 Strange Luck Chance helps a would-be hockey star shake off the gangsters threatening to kill his father (9701416)

12.25am NHL: American Ice Hockey Phoenix Coyotes at Buffalo Sabres (46630733) 4.40 Club Class Cornedy show (r) (72542608)

5.05 Move on Up (r) (85529649) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (4659135)

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• For further listings see

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SKY ONE

7,00am Court Duclota (83139) 7,30-Chis
Evens (6349) 8,00 Hollywood Squares
(6054) 8,00 Solly Jeeny Rapheel (37771)
10,00 Oprah Winfrey (64056) 11,00 Gustyl
(71394) 12,00pm Jerny Jones (59771)
1,00 Mad About You (75110) 1,30 Jeopardy (42435) 2,00 Solly Jessy Rapheel
(6564) 3,00 Jenny Jones (44329) 4,00
Gullyt (50396) 8,00 Star Tiek Deep Space
Nine (7969) 8,00 Married with Children
(3313) 6,30 Friends (4665) 7,00 Simpsons
(1868) 7,30 Simpsons (8077) 8,00 Simpsons
(1868) 7,30 Simpsons (8077) 8,00 Simpsons
(1869) 7,4059,800 X-Fries (81394) 18,00
Nakyd n Wissminster (64451) 11,00

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 25) Crasts (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) GF Jane (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 69),

Statiship Troopers (1997) Statiship Troopers (1997) SKY BEX OFFICE 4 (Transporter 58) One Might Stand (1997) FLMPOUR

GODDA The Managator: A Miceleval Colyspey (1986) (7288139) A.O. Tachve Monitors (1986) (95412394) 10.15 La Jetee (1982) (95412394) 10.15 La Jetee (1982) (95412394) 10.15 La Jetee (1982) (95412395) 12.15 La Jetee (1989) (95412395) 12.15 Jetee (1989) (95412395) 12.15 Jetee (1989) (95412395) 12.15 Jetee (1989) (95412395) 12.15 Jetee (1989) (95412395) 13.15 Jetee (1989) 13.15 Jetee (1989) (95412395) 13.15 Jetee (1989) 6. (1884) Hallertowers (1874) (935733).
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(880145) 11.50 The Abyes (1889) (18031961) 2.10mm Delenceless (1991) (503066) 2.55 Cerriers (1997) (89162289) SKY MOVIEMAX

SKY MOVIEMAX

8.30sth Time to Say Geoglayer (1967)
(84767) 7.00 LK (10) 10 (74455) 7.50
Formes Fetates (8536136) 8.15 Movie
Mopic (2786394) 6.00 Loirestruck (1988)
(53400) 11.00 End of the Golden Weather (1982) (95868) 1.00pm UK 10p 10
(73708) 1.30 February Endough UK 10p 10
(73708) 1.30 February Endough UK 10p 10
(73708) 1.30 February Endough (8482787)
2.15 Movie Megic (3688139) 3.00 The Big
Game (1995) (90416) 5.90 February End of the
Golden Weather (1982) (1923) 7.80
Losestruck (1988) (8177) 9.00 One Hot
Summer Night (1997) (9837) 11.00
Cobra (1986) (4349) 12.30min Flesh and
Blood (1985) (425659) 2.35 The Effect
of Gainsmin Fleys on Men-in-the-Moon
Marrigolds (1972) (425946) 4.15 The Big
Gaste (1995) (42506) SKY CINEMA

4.00ps (1977) That Never Shape (1983) (878752) 6.00 Megle Town (1947) (730695) 8.00 Meriti" Mehanders (1962) (7391110) 10.00 for a Ever Dollars Horn (1968) (32135482) 12.10ss Alloc Dollars Live Hern Anymore' (1974) (8643153) 2.05 -The Megoe (1960) (4584849) 4.05 Anne of Windy Pophers

2.00pm Sousbody, Up. There Likes. He (1969) (36711110) 11.18 Hearts of the West (1975) (14745346) -1.18am The Liquidator (1966) (60510153) 3.00 Somebody Up There Likes No. (1955) (59762612) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre 7.15 Westing 8.15 7.00am Sports Centro 7.15 Wressing 8.15
Sports Centro: 8.30 Resimp News 2.00
Aerobics 9.30 You're On Bity Sports 19.00
Total Sport 19.30 Inside Scotton Footbal
11.30 Fastrax 12:00pm Aerobics 12:30
Resimption 2.30 World Windowship 8.00
Inside Scotton Footbal 4.00 Superbouts
5.00 Wressing 8.00 Sports Centre 5.30
Uniselectic Sports 17.00 World Pool
League 9.00 Ringelde Boarg 9.30 Unbelevable Sports 18.00 Sports 0.00 rent 18.15
You're On Sky Sports 18.45 World Pool
League 11.45 Sports Centre 12.00am
You're On Sky Sports 12.30 FA Cup
You're On Sky Sports 12.30 FA Cup
Footbal Special 2.00 Ringside Boarg 9.30 SKY SPORTS 2

7,00mm Aerobica 7,30 Live Choles 11,00 V-Mox 11,30 Sports Unfirmed 12,30pm Ideal Sport -1,00 Crotest 2,00 Goff Edra 8,00 Watersports World 7,00 Live FA Cup Footbel 16,00 Goff Edra 1,00mm European Tour Goff Weekly 1,30 Watersports World 2,30 Sporta Centre 2,45 Close SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm: Wresting 1.00 Fish TV 2.00 Superbouts 3.00 Olympic Saries: Road to Nagaro 3.30 Rating 4.30 Figure Stating 6.30 European Tour Golf Weekly 7.00 Fish TV 8.00 International Criciat 10.00 Sky-Sports: Classes: Gold: Cricket 11.00 Football The Entertainers 11.30 Close EUROSPORT 7.30mm Raily 8:00 Snowboarding 9.00 Live Bishlori 10.00 Alphe Sking 10.30 Live Women's Blathion 11.30 Raily 12.00pm Biethion 1.30 Footbell 3.30 Bethion 5.00 Strongman 8.00 Deris 9.30 Rei g 11.00 Speedworld 12.00em Rolly

UK GOLD 7.00mm Croseroeds 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EstEnders 8.00 The BB 0.00 The BB 9.30 The House of Elioti 10.30 Angels 11.00 Datas: 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EstEnders 1.00 Juliet Brand 2.00 Datas ST The BB 987 The BB 987 EstEnders 2.35 The BI 3.25 The BR 3.55 EastEnders - 4.20 Angels 5.00 All Creatures Seat and Snot 8.00 Dynastry 7.00 May to December 7.40 & Ain't Haff Hot, Murn 8.20 Yes, Minister 8.00 One Foot in the Grave 9.40 Jonathan Creek 10.95 Figuriah and Saunders 11.25 The BB 12.03 and The BB 3.25 EastEnders 11.25 The BB 12.03 and The BB 3.25 EastEnders 10.25 EastEnders 3.00 Characters 1.25 EastEnders 1.25 EastEnders 3.00 Characters 3.00 Characte

12.35 Backup 1.30 Harry's Kingdom 3.00 Shopping with Spreamshop GRANADA PLUS 8.00em Water These Wate 7.00 On the Buses 7.30 Dector in the House 8.00 That's My Boy 850 Second Thoughts 9.00 Classic Correction Street 9.30 Emmerdate Farm 10.00 startysomething 11.00 Hawas Firm 10,00 Britiscone and 11,00 Hazar Five-D 12,00pm Cassic Coronation Street 12,30 Emmardels Farm 1,00 Nearest and Desired 1,30 Watching 2,00 thousand-thing 3,00 The Love Boat 4,00 The Sant 8,00 Hazar Five-D 8,00 Emmardels Farm 6,30 Classic Coronation Street 7,00 Mission: "Impossible 9,00 The Love Boat 9,00 Classic Coronation Street 2,00 Mission: "Impossible 9,00 The Love Boat 9,00 Classic Coronation Street 2,00 Street



Contey Show 18.00 Jokers Wild 18.30 Hogen's Heroes 11.00 Men and Molors

6.00em Bear in the Big Blue House 6.25 Classic Toons 6.36 Gunnai Bears 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aleddin 7.35 101 Delmatans 8.00 Goof Troop 6.25 Classic Detriavaris 8.00 Gool Troop 8.25 Classic Toors 8.45 New Adventures of Winner the Pools 8.00 The Abventures of Spot 9.05 Arvinal Shaff 9.15 Pockel Dragons 2.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 9.55 The Toothbush Family 10.00 Bie Size 10.10 Tots TV 10.30 Big Garage 19.45 PB and J Other 11.00 Sessione Steek 12.00pm The Adventures of Spot 12.05 Armal Sheff 12.15 Pocket Dospons 12.20 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbush Family 1.00 Bits Size 1.15 Tots TV.1.30 Big Garage 1.45, PB and J Other 2.00 Curck Pack 2.30 New Adventures of Winner the Poch 2.00 The Little Marmaid 3.30 Art Assack 4.00 101 Columbrators 4.30 Heroules: The TV Show 8.00 Riscess 8.15 Proper Arm 3.30 Smot Guy 8.00 Teen Angel 8.30 Boy Smot 13.30 Bat 8.30 Boy Smot Guy 8.00 Teen Angel 8.30 Boy FILM: Muppet Treasure Island (1996) 8.35 Horie Improvement 10.60 Dinosauts 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.90 Touched by

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo 7.00 Mortal Kombet 7.25 Oggy and the Cockreaches 7.30 Donkey Kong Country 6.00 Goose-bumps 8.25 Sam and Max 8.35 Spiderman 3.60 X-Man 9.25 Fartasto Four 8.00 The Increditio Hult 10.16 Casper 10.30 Oppy and the Cockreaches 10.65 The Mouse and the Manager 11.06 EddStreagertza and the Monder 11.06 EeldStrangertza 11.20 Life with Louis 11.55 Home to Rent 12.05pen Sam and Max 12.30 Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Mongli 1.25 Ace Verbura 1.50 Spiderman 2.15 X-Men 2.40 Farbasic Four 3.05 The Incredible Huik 3.30 Roy and Las's Big Ride 3.35 Montal Kombie 4.00 Spiderman 4.25 Mongli 4.50 Home to Bani 5.00 Goosebarrips 5.25 Eeric, Indiana: The Other Dimension 5.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 5.55 Donkey Kong Country 6.25 Sem and Max 6.50 EskiStrangertza 7.00 Close 6.00am Muppet Bobes 6.30 Rocko's Modern Life 7.00 CatDoog 7.30 Rugnats 6.00 The Widd Thombernys 8.30 Arthur 9.00 C82C 10.00 Wirmon's House 18.30 Baber 11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 PB Bear etc 12.00pm Rugnats 12.30 Blue's Clues 1.00 Bearins in Phyamas 1.30 Little Beer Stones 2.00 Clangere etc 2.30 Chaldren's BBC 8.30 Popp Longstocking 4.00 Hey Amold 4.30 Rugnats 8.00 Scher Setts 8.00 Kerain and Kel 6.00 Sabnins 8.00 Driven Crazy 7.00 Closs

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8.00pm The A-Teem 9.00 LAP.D 9.30 Cops 10.00 Scary Ser 10.30 Eroic Stores 11.00 FLM: Red Scorpton 2 (1994) 1.00em So. Bytes 1.00 Scary Ser 2.00 Externe Championship Wresting 2.30 Cops 3.00 FLM: Beet of the Best (1999) 8.00 LAP.D. S.M. Publis 6.00 (1999) Cops 3.00 Fills; Best of the Best (19 8.00 LAP D 5.30 Bushdo 6.00 Close

7.00pm Clusiess 7.30 Desmand's 8.00 Ricesone 8.30 News Radio 0.00 Cyoli 9.30 Vic Review Big Nept Out 10.00 Insert 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Senielot 11.30 The Lary Senders Show 12.00em Laie Night with David Letterman 1.00 Told 1.30 The Cries 2.00 Dr Kar 2.30 Soep 8.00 Tolder of Fibs 3.30 Nightstand 4.00 Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL SATELLITE Spor-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bloomberg Information Television
9.00 Sortings 9.00 Settlester Gelactica
10.00 Cusmum Lesp 11.00 Dark Shadows
11.30 The Ray Seedbury Thesire 12.00pm
Twingth Zone 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected
1.30 Tales of the Unexpected
1.30 Tales of the Unexpected
Amazing Stones 2.20 Mysteries, Major and
Mercies 3.00 Battlester Gelectica 4.00 The Incredible Hull. 5.00 Sightings 9.00 Time Time 7.00 Quantum Leap 8.00 The Flash 9.00 PSI Factor - Chronicles of the Para-normal 16.00 FILM: Guyver: Dark Hero (1992) 12.00am PSI Factor - Chronicles of the Paranormal 1.00 FILM: Hell Mountain (1993) 2.55 Sc-Focus 3.00 Twiight Zone 8.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close HOME & LEISURE

8.00am Today's Gournet 8.30 Graham Kerr 7.00 Cretivise 7.30 The Painted House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 9.00 Simply Painting 9.30 Gardon Pescue 10.00 Garden Doctors 18.00 Nescue 10,000 Garden Doctors 12,000 Cookebout with Greg and Mex 11,00 Two's Country, Get Skuck in 11,30 Rex Hunt Rishing Adventures 12,00pms Australia's Strangest Home Improvements 12,30 Donig N Up 1,00 Our House 1,30 Hometime 2,00 Wood Wizard 2,30 Home Again with Bob Vila 8,00 The Old House with Steve and Norm 3,30 Go Fishing DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rer Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 Walker's World 5.00 Flightline 5.30 History's Turning Points 6.00 Animal Doctor 6.30 Hunters 7.30 Beyond 2000 8.00 Arthur Mysteres of the East 11.00 Ferran 12.00am Lost Treasures of the Yangtas Valley 1.00 History's Turrung Points 1.20 Flightline 2.00 Close

ANIMAL PLANET 12.00pm Totally Australia 1.00 Nature Watch with Julian Pelitier 1.30 Australia Wild 2.00 Ali Bird TV 2.20 Human/Neture 3.30 Henry's Practice 4.00 Jack Harna's Zoo Life 4.30 Animal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Australia Wild 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 6.30 Lessie 7.00 Queen Chartotte Islands 8.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Horse Tales 9.00 Going Wild 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 Crocodie Hunter 11.00 Wildlife ER 11.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 Crocodie Hunter 11.00 Wildlife ER 11.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 Animal Cose

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00pm The Rigition 7.30 Loolers! 8.00 Season of the Salmon 8.30 Last of the Deneing Bears 9.00 Alyeste. Arctic Wildernass 18.00 Man-Enters of India Wildernass 18.00 Man-Enters of India 11.00 On the Edge An Arctic Secret 12.00em Edgerne Earliz On the Trail of Killer Storms. HISTORY 4.00pm The World at War: Desert 5.00 Classic Cars. Avanti 5.00 The Great Empire-Building an Empire 7.00 The Internous Dreyfue Affair

CARLTON FOOD 8.00ms Food Network Dally 8.30 Food for Thought 16.00 Fensts of the World 18.00 World Thompson Choke 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 Coron's Michen College 12.00pm Food Network Dally 12.30 Remspectives 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30 From the Ground Up 0.00 Caribbean Light 2.30 Food Network Dally 8.00 Surprise Chels 3.30 Coron's Richen College 4.00 Thompulph Modern Brish 4.30 Cree Bruno Thompulph Modern Brish 4.30 Cree Bruno

6.00cm Tiny and Crew 6.20 Philoet the Frog 6.30 Johnson and Friends 6.45 Tiny Tales 6.50 Police Dot Shorts 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.35 Callou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.35 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barney and Friends 8.30 Tiny End Crew 8.00 Tiny Tales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.00 The Ressenter Show 18.00 The Jeny Springer Show 18.00 Meany Polich 11.40 Brookside 12.10cm Anniel Rescue 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Special Bathes 1.40 Beyond Belief. Fact or Fiction 2.10 LA Law 3.10 Living Room 4.00 Michael Cole 4.40 Rolands 5.40 Ready, Steedy, Cook 6.15 Tine Jeny Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 Tine Jeny Springer 911 Tine Jeny Spri The Jany Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 Murder Call 0.00 FILM: A Kidnepping in the Femily (1996) 11.00 Sex Life Down Under 12.00em Close

5.00em Lofy Pop 8.30 Music Time 0.00 Cus and Abour 8.30 Yoodle-Ae-Co 7.00 Felth 7.30 News 0.00 India Business Report 8.30 Saleeb 8.00 Rishtey: The Love Stores 28.00 Sofe 11.00 Auchiman 11.30 Parampasa 12.00pm Fillit: Grote Movite: Neutier Wedi Dis 3.00 Zee Bangia 3.30 Hum Plannch 4.00 Campus 4.00 Ex Minute 8.00 Jungle Book 5.30 Gurrain 6.00 Top of the Tops 6.30 Benegi April Best 7.00 Bast Ban Juye 7.30 It's My Choice 8.00 News 8.00 America 0.00 Hewsish 10.00 fels Peloka 12.00m News 12.30 Tendori Messie 1.00 Zee Bangia 1.30 Rashat 0.00 FBLMC Taxall Movie: Shergotal 4.30 Vsl No Vatessan

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BOWLS 38

Yellow fever takes firm hold on Norfolk coast

SPORT

SAILING 39 Ainslie stays on course for world title

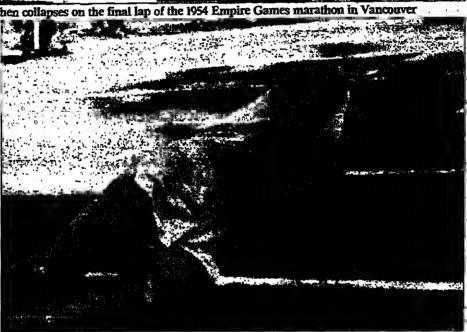


WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 1999

Three miles in front, the finish in sight, a runner staggers into history









Wright faces six weeks on the sidelines with knee injury

BY MATT DICKINSON

No 1613

ACROSS Canterbury Tales poet (7) 5 Well off (4) 9 Doctor's deputy (5) 10 Skull (7) 11 Fashionable idler, eg

Wooster (3-5-4) 12 Coy, chaste (6) 13 One as Barbados, Tasmani 16 One batted across table

(4-4,4)19 Compress (7) 20 Reversed; loosened (5) 21 President of the Immortals sported with her (Hardy) (4) 22 Diana temple city (7)

I Sect. fashionable (eg TV series) (4)

3 Fall, fail badly (4,1,7) 4 Count up: consider (6) 6 — Jones. architect (5) 7 Primate related to Man (7) 8 Crazy (but likeable) (4.2,1.5) 12 Put (into eg bank) (7)

14 Makes reference (ro) (7) 15 Nasal outburst (6) 17 Substantives (5) 18 Those offered in betting (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1612 ACROSS: 1 Proust 4 Sprout 8 Cosy 9 Analysis 10 First Lady 13 Ashen 15 Union 16 Futon 18 Cassandra 21 Skeleton

22 Chop 23 Oblong 24 Stupor DOWN: 1 Pacify 2 Obstruct 3 Trawl 5 Pollyanna 6 Oust 7 Tuscun 11 Truncheon 12 Amiss 14 Hardship 16 Fiasco 17 Tamper 19 Sinus 20 Fell

THE SEATIMES BOOKSHOP NEW TIMES CHOSSWORD THEES NOW ANAILABLE

o Crosswords (Bank 7-1279). The These Crosswords Bank 20 Crosses (200) the Crosswords Bank I is available to Times readers for pay 4 (RRP/1074 while sup The Times Two Conservates (Bonk 14 Lands The Times Conservate -Bonk 3.1 Congress Conservate Bonk 14 manufacture to Fig. 11 minus further Congress of Bonk 14 manufacture to Fig. 2. The Fig. 11 minus further than 12 minus for the Fig. 13 minus

term, not just at club level. With Wright likely to be absent for at least six weeks after he underwent surgery last night. Glenn Hoddle, the England cnach, will also be concerned as he plans for a match against France, the world champions. and subsequent European

championship qualifiers. Wright saw a specialist vesterday and an exploratory operation is believed to have

shown that his cartilage re-

quired surgery, ruling him out

IAN WRIGHT may be forced

to cancel his chat show this

week because of a serious knee

injury, but the nation is expect-ed to cope. Whether West Ham United will survive his

absence for what could be a

protracted period is another

The immediate concern, after Wright collapsed suddenly in training yesterday, is their

treacherous FA Cup third-

round replay away to Swan-sea City tonight. Short of play-ers and morale, they will face

the team from the Nationwide

League third division with

There are also more signifi-

cant worries in the longer

mounting trepidation.

natter entirely.

and Harry Redknapp, his manager, said last night. The knee has been locking up on

early stages of the I-I draw with Swansea at Unton Park him ever since. He thought he would be OK and tried to give



it a go in training, but it locked again. It is a terrible blow to until March. However, there are also fears that ligaments have been damaged, which lose someone of his quality. The 35-year-old will be hopwould mean a longer spell of ing that he will be fit enough to recuperation.

sit on the studio couch on Thursday night, when this week's Friday Night's All Wright is due to be filmed. A Wright was injured in the spokeswoman for London

Weekend Television said it was awaiting medical reports. Wright who missed West Ham's 4-1 defeat at Manchester United on Sunday, joins a lengthening injury list at Up-ton Park with Marc Keller. Paul Kitson and Javier Margas already ruled out of the replay. The club has also been plagued by poor form recent-ty, with John Hartson appearing to be listless and the sub-

ject of transfer speculation. Redknapp is tied by a lack of funds, but he is hoping to se-cure Scott Minto, the left back, from Bentica in a deal worth up to £1 million this week. The squad is so thin that Joe

Cole, the much-heralded teenage midfield player, will be in the squad to face Swansea and is likely to be pressed

first division owners intent on

an exclusive Anglo-Welsh

league next season, Indeed.

the English second division

clubs. meeting in Birming-

into regular action sooner than Redknapp had hoped. The injury situation has probably pushed it on us a bit, but it's not a problem," Redknapp said.

West Ham suffered their fourth successive away defeat in the league at Old Trafford and Redknapp knows that his club's chances of qualifying for Europe via a favourable FA Carling Premiership place are receding. The FA Cup re-mains their best hope, but they face a tricky test tonight.

Another upset is possible at Craven Cottage, where Fulham have already beaten Southampton in the second round of the Worthington Cup this season. "It'll be a hard game," David Jones, the Southampton manager, said, "but we'll be going at it with all guns blazing."

Southampton moved up to eighteenth place in the FA Carling Premiership with a 3-1 vic-tory against Charlton Athletic at The Dell and Jones said: "Hopefully, we could be turning the corner at last."

FA to buy Wembley, page 27 Feuer's lead role, page 41

London Scottish merger put on ice

THE marriage proposed be-tween Bristol and London Scottish was halted yesterday some steps short of the aliar. After a day of discussion involving Nick de Scossa, the Bristol chief executive, and Tony Tiarks, chairman of London Scottish, together with kading figures from English First-Division Rugby, both clubs announced that their scheduled fixtures on Saturday would take place while the implications of the proposals were examined further.

That will give supporters of

London Scottish, whose ab-

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

sence from Allied Dunbar Premiership matches has been instrumental in persuading Tiarks to look elsewhere, to demonstrate on behalf of their club at Welford Road, where the exiles play Leicester. Elaine Watterson, the president of the supporters' associa-tion, has been inundated with messages from members dismayed at the prospect of their club's name disappearing from the top tier of the game. Tiarks acknowledged that

the formation of either an Anglo-Welsh or a British league. seeking instead to preserve the integrity of the Premiership.

The Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) indicated that there would be no cash support for London Scottish from north ond division and who play Wakefield on Saturday, had made an offer (believed to be worth fil million) for a 100 per cent shareholding in London Scottish Rugby Club Ltd as a London Scottish from north way of ensuring a place among the elite, which its offiof the border, even while they acknowledged the exiles' outcials believe could be denied standing contribution to inter-national rugby. "We have a them by the machinations of

strategy in place ... part of which is designed to encourage players to come back and play their rugby in Scotland." Bill Watson, the SRU chief ex-

Jim Peters, 1950s icon, dies aged 80

By JOHN GOODBODY

final lap of the 1954 Empire Games marathon in the searing heat of Vancouver, he had a lead of more than three miles. Glory was in sight, but, as the crowd rose to acciain him, Peters faltered and began to stagger. He never crossed the finishing line, but his valiant, agonising efforts to cover the final few yards made an millions on Movietone News.

Peters, whose death at the age of 80 on Saturday was an-nounced yesterday, never ran in a significant competition again, but his place in British sporting history was secure. In the course of his marathon career, Peters had broken the world best four times, but when he entered the stadium in Vancouver, be was suffering from the effects of his fast early pace in temperatures of 75F. Dehydrated, he fell about six times and began crawling on the track.

Among his anguished British team-mates at trackside were Roger Bannister and Chris Brasher, who later founded the London Marathon. No one dared to assist Peters in his distress, remembering that Dorando Pietri, of Italy, had been disqualified in 1908 when helped across the line at the London Olympic Games. It was only when it was clear that Peters was not going to linish that they went to his aid. The eventual winner was Joe McGhee, of Scodand, whose victory has

been almost forgotten. Eventually, an English medical official put an end to his suffering by clasping him to his chest and leading him to the safety of a medical centre. However, although the effort ended the career of Peters, he became, like Pietri, more celebrated in defeat than in his victories in the 1950s.

gripped the imagination of the _ stinct," he said. British public in cinemas across the country — 1954 was

WHEN Jim Peters started the before the Games (now the Commonwealth Games) were televised extensively. They also... empathised with his statement: I was completely bewil, dered, but I just did not wanten disgrace my wife and kiddles."
Even in the medical centre, he asked, in his pain, whether he asked, in his pain, whether he had won, only to have the sympathetic reply from a murse, you did very well. Peters suffered in the race because at that time, it was not realised. that marathon runners need. ed to drink regularly to avoid

dehydration.
David Bedford, the international race director of the London Marathon, said yesterday: "Inn was a class runner when marathon running, unlike today, was unfashionable. and believed in the work ethic with his thousands of miles run in plimsoles. My first memories of him were from newspaper pictures showing him collapsing when in sight of the finish."

Bedford, the former 10,000 metres world record-holder. whose own training in the 1970s was applauded by Pe-ters, said: Few athletes pushthemselves to such exhaustion as Jun did at those Games."

Peters had been a "worthy" member of the 19-strong London Marathon Club, which is restricted to those British competitors who have won medals at leading championships or set world bests. He was a pioneer of long distance ruming in the 1950s. After finishing minth in the 1948 Olympic 10,000 metres be concentrated on the marathon and in 1954, shortly before Vancouver, won the Polytechnic marathon in a world best 2hr. 17min 39.4sec-

Peters retired from athletics after Vancouver. "I could never forget what I suffered in the sun - it cost me my killer in-

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